



# ***By the Shores of Lough Mask***

***A history of Gaelic games in  
Partraí and Tuar Mhic Éadaigh***









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Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh

**50 Bliain ag Fás, 1965 - 2015**





**Dedicated to the memory of those who cultivated  
a love of Gaelic games in our hearts**

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Co. Mhaigh Eo, 2015.

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## FOREWORD

Ó bhunaíodh an chlub sa bhliain 1965, tá CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh i gcroí-lár saol an pharóiste. Sa leabhar seo, ceiliúrtar stair agus oidhreacht an chlub. Cuirtear ós cómhar an léitheora pictiúrí iontach de ócáidí speisialta agus de na daoine a chaith an geansaí dubh agus bán go bródúil thar na blianta. Táim fíor-bhuíoch leis na daoine a thug cabhair dom chun an leabhar seo a chur le chéile agus tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as.

Tourmakeady GAA club has made an enormous contribution to the sporting and social life of the parish of Ballyovey since its foundation. This book tells the story of Gaelic games in the area over the past half century and more. In every decade since the 1900s, there are records of GAA activities in this locality. The earlier clubs did not last but the influx of Gaeltarra Éireann workers in the 1960s helped to establish a new club that is still going strong 50 years later.

From modest beginnings in 1965, Tourmakeady GAA club gradually rose through the 1970s and enjoyed a glorious era between 1979 and the mid-1980s. Then came some very challenging times but brighter days returned in the 1990s and another run of great success followed. Our Ladies footballers have also won a number of county titles and many representatives of the club have achieved All-Ireland glory with Mayo. Aside from activities on the field, Tourmakeady GAA club has been involved over the years in Scór and Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta. Another important aspect is the relationship with our exiles abroad.

Many of the images in this book have never before been published, including several from the archives of Liam Lyons and Frank Dolan. Some have appeared in back issues of *Waterfall* but are herein reproduced in higher quality than when originally released. It has taken a lot of time to collect, catalogue and digitally restore all these photographs but the reward is that now, for the first time, a pictorial record of the rich heritage of Tourmakeady GAA club has been brought together in a single volume. Thanks to all contributors who entrusted me with their photographs and treasured personal mementos. Thanks also to the editors of *The Mayo News*, *Western People*, *Connaught Telegraph*, and *Waterfall* for granting permission to re-print articles. The statements and records included in this book are based on newspaper reports, contemporary documents and personal conversations. Inevitably, there will be some errors and omissions and I beg pardon from anybody who has not been duly credited or acknowledged.

As a relative newcomer to this parish, I have greatly enjoyed being involved with CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh for the past few years. Tourmakeady is a special place, blessed with wonderful people and a strong community spirit. I wish I could have come here a little sooner in life and had the opportunity to wear the club colours on those great teams of the 1990s and 2000s. But it's about the next generation now and I look forward to exciting times ahead.

*Michael O'Flaherty*

**Michael Lang**  
(Editor / Club Secretary)



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## OPENING MESSAGES



### ***Focal ó Chathaoirleach CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, Pattie Stundún Uí Aodhagáin:***

Is mór an onóir domsa a bheith mar Chathaoirleach sa bhliain stairiúil seo. Tá an-chuid ama agus díograis curtha isteach sa chlub iontach seo ag imreoirí, bainisteoirí, coistí agus oibrithe deonacha thar na blianta. Tá ár gcuid páistí ag baint tairbhe as an ngrá, paisean agus dílseacht seo anois. Gach maidin Domhnaiigh bíonn níos mó ná 60 páistí idir 6 agus 12 bliain d'aois chomh maith lena gcuid traenálaith ag traenáil ar an bpáirc. Ní bhíonn orlach cearnach le spárail agus ní bhíonn ach fuaim álainn spraoi agus gáire le cloisteáil. Is féidir linn a bheith cinnte de go bhfuil an club slán do na blianta fada amach romhainn mar is iadsan laochra an todhchaí, ag caitheamh suaitheantas Thuar Mhic Éadaigh agus thar a bheith bródúil as a gclub iontach. Deirtear nach bhfuil gach rud dubh agus bán ach nuair a thagann sé go peil tá sé !!!



### ***Focal ó Shauna Ní Bhaircéir, Rúnaí Club na mBan:***

Comhghairdeas mór le CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh ar an ócáid speisialta seo ag comóradh 50 bliain. Following on from 2010 when our Ladies won the Mayo County Championship and contested the Connacht Final, our Ladies club has done extremely well in recent years. Our underage structure is up and running for two years now. Last year we won the U-13 county final and this year our girls won the Cumann na mBunscol final. We currently have U-10, U-12, U-14 and Minor teams competing well in their respective divisions. This all bodes well for the future of our Ladies club which is going from strength to strength year on year. 50 bliain ag fás agus ag tnúth leis an gcéad 50 bliain eile!



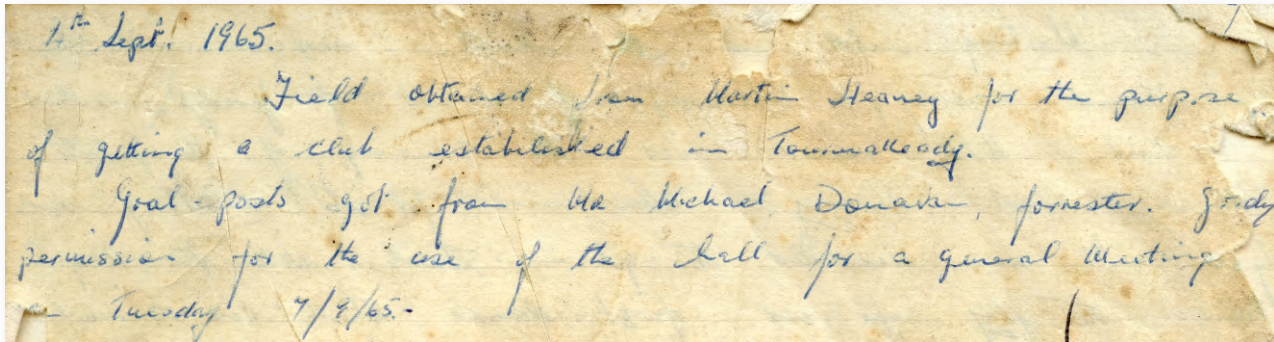
### ***A word from Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach Coiste CLG Chontae Mhaigh Eo:***

I am privileged to add my few words to this book. I have fond memories of my own club Hollymount participating in the Gaeltarra tournament in the 1980s; it was one of the highlights of our summer going back to Tourmak' during the week and playing in Heaney's field. When the game was over, it was up to the hall to be greeted by the same women who made the tea and sandwiches each year. Winning the tournament would be an added bonus as it included a dance in the hall for the presentation, always a fantastic night. Tourmakeady GAA club has made great progress on and off the field with the development of its pitch and dressing rooms, winning county Junior and Intermediate titles, and progressing further to win Connacht titles. This all goes down to the great work and dedication of your members over the past 50 years. Tourmakeady have always been good supporters of the Mayo County Board and I would like to especially thank Kevin O'Toole for his excellent work as an officer of the County Board. Thank you Tourmakeady for all the wonderful memories and continued success into the future.



## A SUMMER'S EVENING IN 1965

by Owen Denny



Above is the very first entry in the minute books of Tourmakeady GAA club, dated 4th September 1965. It reads: "Field obtained from Martin Heaney for the purpose of getting a club established in Tourmakeady. Goal posts got from Michael Donovan forester. Granted permission for the use of the hall for a general meeting on Tuesday 7/9/65".

It does not seem like fifty years since I played football in Heaney's field. In the early '60s when I arrived in Tourmakeady to work for Matt Burke and his family, the village had a secondary school for girls, a parochial hall, a Gaeltarra Éireann factory, a ball alley, but no GAA club.

At that time I was a member of the Islandeady club. A number of the Gaeltarra factory workers were playing for Ballintubber. A meeting was called to try to establish a new club of our own in Tourmakeady. Seán Ó Shea and Tom Garvey from Kerry, Seán Cronin from Cork, and yours truly from Longford were the only ones to show up for that first meeting but we were all young and impetuous so we pressed on.

I remember the precise moment when we decided to go ahead with the club. It was a

Saturday evening in the summer of 1965. At that point we'd had several meetings, four or five of us, so we decided it was time we went looking for a suitable pitch. Myself, Seán O'Shea and Tom Garvey were standing up on the ditch looking into Martin Heaney's field and as we were standing there, Martin passed by in his car and gave us a quizzical look. So we followed him over to his pub and told him that we wanted to start a football club. He responded by saying



Martin Heaney (pictured here in 2001) offered the use of his field to get the club started in 1965.

that “ye can have the use of the field and if there is anything else I can do, I will gladly do it”. From that moment, there was no turning back. We still had no football, jerseys or players. However, word spread and a number of locals rowed in behind us. This group included Tom Prendergast of Churchfield, Seán Molloy, Matt Burke, Michael Power, Pádraig Feeney, Michael Waters, Tommy Lydon, Junior Ronan and others. Michael Donovan, the local forester, provided the goal posts.



Sergeant  
Jim Callaghan

It was unusual that a new football club should have been started by all players. The first committee were all players and this lasted for some time. Apart from Martin Heaney, the other man who played a huge role in enabling the club to

get off the ground was Sergeant Jim Callaghan of Partry. Jim organised all the Partry players.

It was incredible the amount of goodwill that we received from the entire parish. The O'Malleys, Flynnns, Gibbons, Meenaghans, Henaghans, Lallys, O'Briens, Burkes, Lydons, Naughtons, Stauntons, Prendergasts, Dermody's, Heratys and other families were all fantastic.

Slowly we were getting organised but we had to formally apply to the West Mayo Board for permission to enter their competitions. The Islandeady delegates at that meeting (my own former club mates) were Seán Moylette, Richard

Conaboy and Sonny Rice. They proposed that we be accepted and a Mr. Rice from Breaffy seconded the proposal. We were on our way.

Those early days were very exciting but on one occasion we sailed very near the rocks. Someone got the bright idea that the local lads should play the factory workers. It was a hectic game with frayed tempers and hard knocks. For good reasons such a game was not repeated. Peace was restored after a few weeks.

Our first championship game was away against Achill in May 1966. For the day we hired a C.I.E. bus. We did not win but it was a proud day for all of us. In those early days it was difficult to get out a full team if the factory workers were on holidays. In those circumstances we could always rely on Clonbur and John Joe Holleran to help us out. It might have been slightly illegal but a good neighbour is worth his weight in gold.

During the winter months, we used to take part in indoor football competitions. We travelled to places like Castlebar and Tuam for games. We also had an excellent ladies indoor team. The star of the ladies team was Una Dever.

Fifty years ago communications were very difficult. There were no mobile phones and business people frowned on staff getting personal calls. My very good friend, the late Betty Burke of Gortfree, often relayed messages from me to the other club officers working in the factory.

Our first means of income was Ciste na Banban organised by Seán Ó Cróinín. Father Cribben gave us the use of the hall for fund raising. Using the hall for dances, concerts and plays provided a great social outlet. If a good band was playing in Castlebar or Westport on a Sunday they would

stay over and play for us on the Monday night – yes, Monday night – because in those days there was a dance somewhere every night. The plays were also a great source of income with very little expense. Because we were not allowed to have rehearsals in the hall, we learned and rehearsed plays under the light of an oil lamp in a house belonging to John Lydon. Our first play was “Swan Song” with Kathleen Staunton, Nóirín Naughton, Bridie Meenaghan, Michael Waters and Junior Ronan. We also put on the “Lord Mayor” with Jimmy Coyne and Frank Walsh. There actually were no parts in the play suitable for Jimmy and Frank so we wrote in two special parts for them with a local flavour. They were brilliant and their performances were talked about long after the rest of the play was forgotten.

At that time there was a small group of young people who were making a nuisance of themselves because there was nothing for them to do. While we were rehearsing a play one night in the hall they arrived outside making noise. Seán O’Shea and I invited them in to help us. They willingly came and from that time they helped in every way possible. They were integrated into the club. To me that was more important than winning the West Mayo Junior Championship.

I was referee for many games in West Mayo. I remember one Sunday I refereed the two semi-finals of the West Championship in Westport. I am probably remembered best for sending Paddy Muldoon to the line in a game in Westport in the early 1970s. Paddy of course later became Chairman of the Mayo County Board. We were good friends both before and after that incident.

I would like to pay tribute to all the men and

women who have kept Tourmakeady GAA club on the road for the past fifty years. Congratulations on all the developments and the ambitious plans for the future. The greatest asset of the GAA since its foundation has been the club volunteer. Every club has its volunteers and Tourmakeady is blessed in that respect.

*Editor’s note: Owen Denny is a native of Aughnacliffe near Lough Gowna, Co. Longford. He was a founder member of Tourmakeady GAA club in 1965 and was the first ever chairperson of the club. Subsequently, he also served as club captain. Owen now lives in Coill Dubh, Co. Kildare. By coincidence, another man from the shores of Lough Gowna was involved in starting a football team in the parish 40 years previously. That was Garda John McGahern, whose story is told in chapter 4.*



Founder members,  
Owen Denny and  
Seán Ó Cróinín in 1966





The Tourmakeady team that played Westport in the West Mayo Junior Football Championship on 5th June, 1966. Back: Pádraig Feeney, Michael T. Lally, Thomas Prendergast, John Kennedy, Tommy Lydon, Tom Burke, J.J. Newell, Patsy Hennelly, Jackie O'Brien.

Front: Michael Power, Tim Beattie, Seán Ó Sé, Seán Ó Cróinín, Michael Hennelly, Owen Denny, Seán Fitzgerald, Bernie Dermody. © Photo: Liam Lyons ([www.liamlyons.com](http://www.liamlyons.com))

The 1966 Tourmakeady team being honoured at the club's 40th anniversary dinner dance in the Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, January 2007. Back: Pádraig Ó hÉanacháin (Cathaoirleach), Tom McManus, Pádraig Feeney, Tommy Prendergast, John Kennedy, Owen Denny, Mícheál Ó Broin, Pádraig Ó Cualáin, J.J. Newell, Frank Lally (for Michael T. Lally).

Front: Seán Óg Burke (for Matt Burke), Ricky Staunton (for Michael Staunton), Tim Beattie, Seán Ó Sé, Seán Ó Cróinín, Mickey Hennelly, John Fitzgerald, Bernie Dermody. © Photo: Frank Dolan.



## DUBH AGUS BÁN GO DEO !



*"My heart is black and white,  
I'll stick with what I know,  
Black and white forever,  
In hailstones, rain or snow"*

– adapted from lyrics  
by Leo Moran, Saw Doctors

Left: A Tourmakeady supporter celebrates the Intermediate county final victory in October 2010.

Right: Matt and Adam Lydon proudly wearing their colours at a game in Páirc Naomh Muire, June 2014.

### ***The choice of club colours***

According to Terry Reilly's history of Mayo football, the original colours of Tourmakeady GAA were green and white when a club was first formed in the late 1940s. Partry also had a football team in those days. Their colours were royal blue with white collars, a tradition that has been carried into modern times by the village school and Partry Athletic FC. That Partry team of the 1950s participated in tournaments and challenges but never formally affiliated to the GAA. The club in Tourmakeady did affiliate and played in the South Mayo division for a brief while but then fell

away. So when a new football club was established in Tourmakeady in 1965, one of the decisions that had to be made by the members was what colours to wear. The inaugural chairperson of the new club, Owen Denny, explains that:

*"People wonder why we chose black and white as the club colours. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, we did not wish to clash with any other club colours and secondly, they were a few pence cheaper than the brighter colours".*

Actually, there was (and still is) one other club in West Mayo – Kilmeena – whose registered colours



were black and white. However, the distinctive style of the Kilmeena jersey in the 1960s was white with black hoops whereas the Tourmakeady jersey was all black with white trim. But there is yet another reason for the choice of colours ...

### ***The Ballyvourney connection***

Seán Ó Cróinín was the first secretary of Tourmakeady GAA club. He played at midfield and in defence for the club in its formative years. In 1973, he returned to his native Ballyvourney where he became involved with the local club, Naomh Abán. In 2015, the 50th anniversary year of Tourmakeady GAA club, coincidence decreed that Tourmakeady would play Naomh Abán in the first round of the Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta in Ardara. Seán Ó Cróinín was there to witness the

meeting of his native club from Cork and the club he had helped to establish in Mayo fifty years previously. Speaking before that game, Seán proudly explained that there is a link between Ballyvourney's original colours and those of the first set of black and white jerseys that Tourmakeady purchased in 1966:

*“Cheannamar an seit sin i mBaile Átha Cliath, níorbh O’Neills iad measaim, ach roghnaíomar an dubh agus an bán toisc gur fadó riamh i m’áit dhúchas i mBaile Bhúirne, b’iad na dathanna a bhí acusan ná dubh agus bán agus sin an fáth gur roghnaíomar ... bhuel, gur roghnaíos na dathanna sin agus bhí gach duine in éineacht liom sa dheireadh.”*

Ballyvourney subsequently changed their colours to blue and white, but black and white have ever since been the colours of Tourmakeady. That first set of jerseys was purchased from Clery's of Dublin and arrived on February 12th 1966. They were worn the very next afternoon in the club's first ever game, a challenge match against neighbours Ballinrobe.

### ***Alternative club colours***

At a meeting of the club in February 1971, it was proposed that a new set of jerseys should be purchased and the matter of colours was again brought up. It was agreed to stick with black and white, but perhaps to change to white jerseys



At the club's dinner dance in January 2011, club captain Kevin Dolan (right) presented a framed jersey to Jack Grimes in appreciation of his services to CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh



with black knicks. However, for some undocumented reason, it was decided at that time to retain the all-black style.

The norm in those early years was that a set of jerseys would be replaced after five seasons of wear and tear. As is evidenced by photographs in later chapters, players often took to the field in jerseys whose durability had been severely tested by opposing teams. And so, at the club's AGM in January 1976 it was decided the time had come to again purchase a new set. They were duly ordered from Clery's at a cost of £51.70 (equivalent to €65).

It was not until the late 1970s that a Tourmakeady team appeared in white jerseys with black trim. For the club's tour to Chicago and Detroit in 1979, Tourmakeady wore a predominantly white kit with black togs and black stripes on sleeves/collars. These were the jerseys that the club wore in the famous breakthrough win of 1979 in the West Mayo and County Junior Championship finals. In the 1980s, the club returned to wearing black with white trim as the primary colours.

### ***The CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh crest***

The club crest was designed in 2006. A competitive open call was issued, inviting people to share their ideas for a logo and motto. The brief was that the design should be simple and that it must "reflect some appropriate historical or topographical feature of the area". In the end, nobody ventured to submit a proposal so it fell to the club chairman of that time, Pádraig Ó hÉanacháin, to come up with a concept. The eventual design has three symbolic components, - the mountains above, the lake below, and the football pitch at the centre of it all. The year of foundation (1965) is also shown, as well as the name of the club in Irish. In ancient times, the tuath of Partraighe consisted of Partraighe an tSléibhe and Partraighe na Locha. This corresponds with the modern demarcations of

Tourmakeady and Partry. Hence, on the club crest, the mountains (Partraighe an tSléibhe) represent Tourmakeady and the lake (Partraighe na Locha) represents Partry. The club colours and crest have become a badge of identity, proudly worn by its members wherever they may go.



*Loch na Deirce Bige agus Barr na hAbhna*

# GAELIC FOOTBALL IN BALLYOVEY PARISH: 1900 - 1944

*“the Association swept the country like a prairie fire”*

*– Michael Cusack, founder of the GAA*

### ***The origins of Gaelic games in Mayo***

In modern parlance, the phrase “Gaelic games” refers to Gaelic football, hurling / camogie, and to a lesser extent handball and rounders. Of these games, the only one that can genuinely claim to have ancient origins that are distinctly Gaelic is hurling. Folklore has it that a game of hurling was played over 3000 years ago on the plains of Moytura, near Cong, between the Tuatha Dé Danann and the Firbolg. In several areas of Mayo, turf cutters going about their work have unearthed primitive sliothars dating back to ancient times. According to one source, football was not played in Mayo until the nineteenth century:

*“The oldest man in our parish at present is John Egan, Fairhill ... He is 96 ... he was born in Athlone ... I have heard it said that John Egan was the first man to bring a football to Mayo. He brought it from Roscommon. Before that time hurling was the game played in this [area], as indeed in most districts of Ireland” (Schools Folklore Collection 1937, Clogher NS, p. 163)*

The ravages of the Great Famine almost wiped out the game of hurling throughout Ireland. In 1867, the *Connaught Telegraph* remarked in a report about Castlebar Sports Day that “we have always looked with great regret upon the

decadence of our national sports, – hurling, bowling, pole and other leaping, etc. – because they tended to make Irishmen a hardy, manly and agile race”.

The earliest newspaper reference to any form of football in Mayo is in a case before Castlebar court in 1869 which referred to the boys of the town kicking football on the “Mall” for several years previously. Commenting on the issues in this case, a letter to the *Mayo Examiner* remarked that there is “scarcely a man in Castlebar, young or old, who has not in the spring-time of youth disported himself on its soft green in pursuit of the football, in warm competition at a hurling match, or, in more modern times, at the healthful game of cricket”. As regards football in rural areas, one of the earliest mentions is of a game played by the Gaels of Kilkelly on Huntsfield lake when it froze over sometime about 1860. History was repeated in January 1940 when the lake again froze and Kilmore played Aughamore on the ice. A game of football was also played on a frozen turlough outside Ballinrobe in December 1875, just a few weeks after a football club (rugby?) was established in the town. Football games at that time would have been of the rough-and-tumble variety with whole villages joining in against each other. One such game took place in Ballycastle in 1881 when, having been dispersed from a Land League meeting by a force of 70 policemen, “a large crowd

of country people” moved to the next field where they “engaged in football kicking”.

In 1879, two major events of national significance took place in Mayo. The first was the staging of the National Athletic Sports of Mayo by P.W. Nally on his father’s farm in Balla in September. The other was the foundation of the Irish National Land League by Michael Davitt and others at a meeting in the Imperial Hotel, Castlebar in October. Nally and Davitt were both key figures in the Land League and both also played important roles in the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The two organisations had similar objectives in so far as they aimed to wield control from the landed classes and empower the native Irish peasantry. Athletic events had become the preserve of the gentry and Nally was intent on reclaiming Irish sports for the Irish people. To this end he met Michael Cusack in 1879, a man of like-minded persuasions, and thus began a sequence of happenings that eventually led to the establishment of the “The Gaelic Athletic Association for the Preservation and Cultivation of National Pastimes” at a meeting in Hayes Hotel, Thurles on November 1, 1884.

Michael Davitt, Archbishop Thomas Croke, and Charles Stewart Parnell were the first patrons of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Interestingly, Michael Davitt also became the first patron of Glasgow Celtic FC in 1889 and turned the sod on their new ground in 1892. The other Mayo man who was influential in the establishment of the GAA, P.W. Nally, was imprisoned at the time of the Thurles meeting. He was due to be released in November 1891 but died in suspicious circumstances a few days beforehand.

In the early years of the Gaelic Athletic

Association, it “swept the country like a prairie fire”. Clubs sprouted up all over the country. Given the activities on the Mall, it was not surprising that the first club established in Mayo was Castlebar Mitchels in December 1885. In 1886, there are match reports involving teams from Carnacon, Belcarra, Ballinrobe, Cong, Ballycurran, Cornfield, Towerhill and other places across the county. According to various sources, there were upwards of 30 GAA clubs in Mayo in 1889.

At that point in history, the people of Ballyovey parish had substantially more to be worried about than organising a local football team. The area of Mount Partry in particular, as it was then called, was destitute. In any case, the Gaelic Athletic Association was about to go into steep decline. It was just a few years old when it was rocked by its first crisis: an attempted infiltration by the Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1888. That situation was averted but then in 1890 came another, brought upon by the fact that Charles Stewart Parnell, the patron of the GAA, became embroiled in controversy over his love affair with Kitty O’Shea. In the fall-out, the GAA took the side of Parnell with disastrous consequences. The association almost broke up entirely. By 1891, there were only three GAA clubs remaining in Mayo. The County Board was dissolved and it was not until 1902 that it was re-established and official competitions commenced again in Mayo. By this time, social conditions had improved substantially in Ballyovey parish. The establishment of Coláiste Chonnacht in 1906 placed the area firmly at the centre of the Gaelic nationalist revival. And so it came to pass that a Gaelic football club was set up in the parish in 1907, based in Partry.



### ***G.A.A. club established in Partry***

At the beginning of 1907, the *Western People's* GAA writer commented that “our prospects for a successful year are of the brightest character, and the clouds which darkened the western horizon for years in regard to Gaelic matters have lifted”. A number of new clubs affiliated to the Mayo County Board in that year, amongst them Partry.

A concert and play was staged in Partry parochial hall on March 10th, 1907 as a fundraiser for the new football club. Proceedings were opened by the schoolboys' choir who sang “The Song of the Bold Mayo Gaels”, followed by “The Harp” in Irish by the girls. Thereafter came several other songs, dances and recitations and Mr. Clarke from Cong provided the services of a gramophone. The main event was the play, “Orange and Green” by Seumas MacManus, which featured local actors P. Moran, W. Horan, M. Cannon, E. MacDermott, John Garry, M. Heneghan, M. Garry, J. Lally, and Messrs Moran and Kennedy. The evening was drawn to a close by a rousing rendition of “A Nation Once Again” in which most of the audience joined. Then followed

a dance into the small hours.

In that year, Partry GAA club was represented in turn at the monthly meetings of Mayo County Committee by M. Moran, Michael Hennelly, and M. Garry. These assemblies were small, usually just the County Board officers and eight or nine delegates from clubs around the county. The normal gathering place was the William Rooney Celtic Literary Society Hall in Castlebar (now the site of Al Muretto Restaurant). Meetings of several other nationalist organisations were convened in the Rooney Hall in those years and it was a noted venue for republican activities.

The fixtures for the first round of the 1907 Mayo Senior Football Championship were issued in April with an advisory note from the county chairman that “the various teams for whom draws have been arranged should lose no time in getting into good form by constant practice”. Partry and Cong were drawn to play each other on Sunday, July 7th at Claremorris as part of a triple-header programme. This match was subsequently re-fixed for Ballinrobe on the same date, followed by the meeting of Shrule and Carnacon. The *Western People* correspondent congratulated Ballinrobe GAA club on securing “an excellent field” for the occasion and anticipated that a large gathering would be in attendance to witness the game between the two newly affiliated clubs, Partry and Cong. The match report was carried in the following week's issue (*pictured across*).

Using census records and parish registers from the time, it is possible to determine with reasonable certainty the identities of most of the seventeen Partry players mentioned in the match report (teams were 17-a-side then). Although a few



Michael Hennelly, captain of Partry football team in 1907, pictured here in 1911.

(Courtesy of Peter McLoughlin)

## IN GAELIC FIELDS

At Ballinrobe on Sunday last two very important and interesting matches in the first ties of the County Championship were decided in the presence of a very large crowd, representative not alone of Ballinrobe but of the surrounding district for miles, and it augurs well for the future success of Gaelic pastimes in South Mayo to find so keen an interest taken in football. The first match was between Cong and Partry, and Mr McHugh, Castlebar, who refereed both games in his usual efficient and impartial style had the teams lined up shortly after 3 o'clock. Partry won the toss, and elected to play against the wind. Their opponents, favoured by a slight breeze, made things warm from the start, and at half time had scored three points to nil. In the second half they increased their lead by adding two more minors and when the whistle finally sounded the score stood as follows: Cong, 5 points, Partry, nil. The game throughout was very vigorous and the Partry men, though lacking the weight and staying power of their opponents, fought to a finish in gallant style. The names of players were:

Cong – Peter Foy (captain), R. Foy (goal), M. and W. Glynn, P. Waldron, P. Conroy, T. Conroy, P. Melia, M. Conroy, P. Varilly, J. Seahill, M. Lynskey, J. Moran, M. Murphy, J. Hudson, A. Varilly, and P. Foy.

Partry – M. Hennelly (captain), R. Henehan (goal), W. Reilly, J. Garry, T. Casey, M. Gibbons, J. Kennedy, P. Cannon, D. Melia, W. Carney, B. Horan, M. Cannon, P. Higgins, M. Walsh, P. Staunton, P. Joyce, P. Prendergast.

of the names are ambiguous, – there being two possible matches for M. Walsh, T. Casey, J. Kennedy and P. Joyce, and several for M. Gibbons, – there is little doubt about the other twelve individuals. The captain was Michael Hennelly, one of seven Tooreen men on the team. There was such a concentration of houses in Tooreen at that time that the census statistics for Mayo include a separate line for “Tooreen Town” within the Portroyal electoral division. Most of the players, including Michael and Patrick Cannon from Newtown, were occupied as farm labourers. Darby Malley from Derradda worked as a blacksmith in his father’s forge, and Bartley Horan

was a stone mason. The latter was father of Monsignor James Horan of Knock airport fame, and also of Bartley Horan, who is mentioned in Chapter 5.

Partry also played in the County League in 1907 and were fixed to play against Balla on August 11th, although no reports exist of the outcome of that match or of any others from that year. There must have been a fairly good football grounds in Partry at the time because it was suggested as a neutral venue for a

Mayo G.A.A. County Championships  
Ballinrobe, July 7th 1907 at 3.00p.m.  
PARTRY -v- CONG

NAME	AGE	ADDRESS
Michael Hennelly (Captain)	27	Tooreen
Richard Heneghan (Goalkeeper)	20	Carrawina
William Reilly	24	Tooreen
John Garry	23	Cloonlagheen
Michael Cannon	26	Newtown
Patrick Cannon	25	Newtown
Darby Malley (Melia)	18	Derradda
William Carney	19	Tooreen
Bartley Horan	23	Tooreen
Patrick Higgins	32	Tooreen
Pat Staunton	21	Tooreen
Philip Prendergast	17	Cartronbower?
M. Walsh		Tooreen
Thomas Casey		Carrawina?
John Kennedy		Carrowaneeragh?
Patrick Joyce		Aghinish?
M. Gibbons		



possible championship replay between Cong and Westport.

In those days, travelling to games by road was difficult, even over distances considered quite short in modern terms. For example, in June 1907 the Shrulce secretary complained that his team had “incurred a good deal of expense” to go to Ballinrobe, only to find that their opponents Cong did not show up, whereupon they played a friendly game against an impromptu amalgamation drawn from Partry, Ballinrobe and Carnacon. In 1911, a new club was started in The Neale and their county board delegate said that there was “no use in asking them to travel outside Ballinrobe”. Also in those years, Partry played Cross in a challenge game and a few of the Partry players cycled down to Cross the night before. It was apparently because of travelling expenses that Partry and a number of other clubs decided not to renew their affiliation in 1908 and subsequent years.

### ***Partry GAA and the fight for Irish freedom***

The political situation at home and in Europe was in a state of high tension during the 1910s. There are no newspaper reports of Partry GAA activities in the early years of that decade but according to one source, Partry played in the 1912 County Junior Championship. In April of that same year, the British Prime Minister introduced a Home Rule Bill which promised to confer powers of self-government upon an Irish parliament. Ulster Unionists vehemently opposed this move and formed the Ulster Volunteers as a local defence force. In turn, nationalists raised their own force, the Irish Volunteers (Óglaigh na hÉireann).

The formation of the Irish Volunteers greatly impacted the activities of the GAA in the years that followed. Most of the recruits to the Volunteers were fit young men, many of whom were also involved in the GAA. Although according to its own rules the GAA was technically a non-political organisation, it was no secret that many of the key individuals within the association were at least sympathetic to the republican movement. Daniel McCarthy, a leading GAA official and Sinn Féin member, had openly declared that “we want our men to be physically strong [so that] when the time comes, the hurlers will cast aside the camán for the steel that will drive the Saxon from our land”. In January 1914, the president of the GAA recommended that members should join the Volunteers “to learn to shoot straight”. All over the country, Volunteers paraded at football matches



Mark Gibbons taking a kick-out for Tourmakeady Seniors against Kilmeena in 2014. His grandfather Stephen played on the Partry team of the 1910s and is said to have once driven a pigskin ball over the bar from a distance of 65 yards.



and used GAA grounds for drilling practice.

In Mayo, the treasurer of the GAA County Board was Dick Walsh from Balla. He was also a leading figure in the IRA and visited every GAA club in Mayo seeking recruits for the cause. There was such a level of cross-membership between the ranks of the GAA and those of the IRA that the Director of Military Intelligence considered the GAA to be practically under their full control. Things were relatively quiet in Mayo at first but all changed after the 1916 Rising. The IRA Volunteers organised themselves into brigades and battalions and actively took up the fight for freedom. The captain of the Partry brigade, which was 65 members strong, was Stephen Gibbons. He was also the star player of Partry's football team and was reputedly one of the finest footballers in all of Mayo at that time.

In July 1918, the British authorities outlawed the Volunteers and several other organisations. An order was issued by Dublin Castle that there should be no public meetings in Ireland except under an official permit. The Central Council of the GAA responded by issuing a decree that no unit of the GAA should seek a permit and also that no member of the association should participate in any meeting for which a permit had been granted. In an act of open defiance, the GAA made plans to stage "Gaelic Sunday" on August 4th, 1918. On that day, GAA games were organised all over the country. Across the county of Mayo, thirteen games were scheduled to take place in nine different venues. The full programme of activities was announced in the *Western People* and included a match between Partry and Ballintubber to be played in Ballinrobe. There has always been a keen rivalry between teams from these two

neighbouring parishes and it was no different in those days. Seán Gibbons, a son of Stephen, recalls a story he was once told:

*"My father said that when Partry played Ballintubber, it always used to be rough. One time, they played each other above in O'Malley's field. There were cocks of hay in it but when the game was finished there wasn't a cock left standing. He said it was the roughest match he ever played but when the game was over they'd always shake hands, they were the best of friends."*

Partry had a strong team in those years and competed vigorously wherever they went. In September 1918, they played a keenly contested draw with Kilmeena in a tournament in Castlebar. The same two teams met again in Castlebar in May of the following year. Along with Stephen Gibbons, the Partry players at that time included Tommy Gronell, John O'Malley (Melia), Darby Cannon, two Ludden brothers from Killawalla, \_\_\_ Gavin from Aughagower, John "Phádraig" Walsh from Ballinrobe, \_\_\_ Burke, \_\_\_ Monaghan and \_\_\_ Heneghan. There were not very many clubs in South Mayo then. There was a good team in Cross and another in The Farm. Ballinrobe town itself also had a team of sorts. Seán Gibbons takes up the story...

*"I don't know what year it was, Partry were playing Cross. Cross had a great team back then. There were two Luddens from Killawalla and a man by the name of Gavin from Aughagower who played with Partry that time. They were very dedicated lads. They went up the night before to look for digs and ended up sleeping in an owl' hayshed or something like that. The journey*

*would have been too long for them by bicycle the next day. My father headed off from Partry that morning, it was an awful day with rain and the roads weren't tarred then. Well they played Cross, and they beat them! And he cycled home and went in to Dermot O'Connor's for a glass of Guinness, and no sooner had he put the glass to his mouth than he fell over, worn out by the sheer exertions."*

On another occasion, Partry played Castlebar Mitchels in the Fairgreen in Castlebar. The pitch was lop-sided and the story goes that Partry did not score in the first half but Castlebar did not score in the second. This game could possibly have been the meeting of the two clubs in the County Junior Championship semi-final of 1919, which was played on Sunday, June 22nd of that year. A report on this match was carried in *The Mayoman* the following Saturday:

#### G.A.A. NOTES

This year football is going ahead rapidly, every Sunday being a football Sunday. Last Sunday brought off two important games in the Junior Championship, viz.: Partry v. Castlebar, in Castlebar, and Kiltimagh v. Ballyhaunis, in Kiltimagh, under pleasant weather conditions.

Partry v. Castlebar was a clean, fast game all round, resulting in a win for Castlebar. Scores:- 3 goals 5pts to 1 goal 2 pts. While we must admit it was a closely-contested game, both sides playing well up to their standard, yet we should not conclude from the above scenes that Castlebar were the better team. Partry undoubtedly played a ripping game and were worth a few more scores. We hope their defeat will not discourage them in any way. Should they specialise in training for the next couple of months, they will, in the near future, give a good account of themselves.

Having reached the county semi-final of 1919, Partry were inexplicably absent when the draws

for the 1920 championship were made the following April. However, there are a number of likely reasons. Firstly, several clubs were losing players through emigration to America as well as migration to seasonal employment in Scotland and England. Secondly, the War of Independence had started. Stephen Gibbons and others were under surveillance and at one stage he had to sleep rough for a few months because his home was constantly being raided by the military. Dick Walsh, the Chairman of the Mayo GAA County Board, was also "on the run". Eventually, in February 1921, over thirty members of the Partry Volunteers were captured while drilling in a concealed field called "Claideach" in Kilfaul. An informant had given them away. They offered the explanation that they were practicing for football but were rounded up and taken to Ballinrobe and then to prison in Galway.

Two weeks later, the IRA brigades from Srah and Ballyglass ambushed a British military convoy in Kilfaul near the place where the Partry Volunteers had been arrested. In May 1921, another ambush took place in Tourmakeady. It was one of the last engagements of the War of Independence. A truce was declared in July and the Anglo-Irish Treaty to create the Irish Free State was signed on December 6th, 1921. But the peace did not last for long because in June 1922 the Civil War broke out. It raged on until May 1923, wrecking lives and property. Of the effect of the war on the GAA, the *Western People* remarked that "there are few counties in which the fine old game suffered such a setback as a result of the

disturbed conditions of the last few years as in Mayo”. By 1924 a sense of normality had finally returned and one of the first visible signs of independence in Partry was the arrival of the new police force, An Garda Síochána, the “guardians of the peace”.

### ***The role of An Garda Síochána in revitalising the GAA in the 1920s***

Following renovation work to repair extensive damage inflicted during the War of Independence, the former R.I.C. barracks in Partry re-opened as a Garda station in 1924. The first sergeant in charge was Michael Mullane, a native of Mallow, who a few years later was awarded a Scott Medal for bravery for his part in an incident in Drumshanbo. Along with Sergeant Mullane, three guards commenced service at Partry on November 13th, 1924. Their names were Martin Reynolds, John McGahern and Michael Smyth. All three came from rural communities where there was an established tradition of Gaelic games. They brought an enthusiasm for GAA to Partry and were instrumental in reviving the local football team.

Garda Martin Reynolds came from the parish of Doora, Co. Clare, where a GAA club had existed since 1887. Garda John McGahern was from near Gowna, Co. Cavan, where the local club had won the county Junior football championship just a few years prior to his arrival in Partry. He was an accomplished inter-county footballer, being the holder of two Ulster Senior Football Championship medals. He also featured prominently on the Civic Guards team that reached the Dublin Senior Football Championship Final of 1923.



Partry Garda Station about 1925.  
Standing: Michael Smyth, John McGahern,  
Martin Reynolds. Seated: Sergeant Michael  
Mullane, Michael Dwyer.

Playing alongside John McGahern in the half-forward line of the Guards team in that Dublin final was Garda Michael Smyth, a man who was described as an “ardent follower of the GAA” throughout his life. He signed up to join the new police force the same week as John McGahern, just days after the IRA Executive ordered an end to the



Civil War in May 1923. Michael Smyth was a native of Fourmilehouse, Co. Roscommon where the local GAA club (Kilbride) was established in 1889. Kilbride GAA club was a major force in Roscommon football during the early years of the twentieth century.

Given their strong GAA backgrounds, it was little wonder that within a short time of their arrival in Partry, these three Gardaí played a central role in revitalising Gaelic football in the area. The men probably needed little encouragement to lace up their football boots but actually were under official instructions from the Commissioner, General Eoin O'Duffy, to do so. In a circular issued to all stations in 1923, O'Duffy encouraged the guards to join local football, hurling and athletics clubs. He was anxious that the Garda Síochána would be accepted by the people and not just seen as a continuation of the R.I.C. with a change of uniform. He therefore urged his men to be "Irish in thought and in action" and to "play their way into the hearts of the people" by actively promoting Irish sport, music, language and dancing. O'Duffy himself was very much involved in the GAA in his native county Monaghan and served as an officer of the Ulster Council from 1913

up to 1934. He had been in attendance at the 1923 Dublin County Final in which John McGahern and Michael Smyth played and it was hardly a coincidence that two of the best footballers within the Garda Síochána recruits were dispatched to serve together in Partry.

At the time that Partry barracks opened, football had not been played on an organised basis in the area for a few years. The three Gardaí, with the help of some locals from Partry and Ballintubber, sought to rectify this. Although several of the better players from the Partry team of the previous decade had emigrated, a group of willing young men came together, some of whom were amongst the Volunteers

captured in Kilfaul in 1921. In the Spring of 1926 the newly formed Partry football team ventured to play in the South Mayo League competition hosted by Ballinrobe GAA club. One of Partry's most talented footballers in those years was Joe Horan of Portroyal who played for Mayo at inter-county level. However, he was then in the final year of his studies at St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. Even without the services of Joe Horan, Partry had a number of other useful players, as they proved when the games began ...



## South Mayo League 1926

This 15-a-side tournament, which was run on a league basis, was the first of its kind to be staged in Mayo. A number of teams entered, including Ballinrobe, The Farm, Shrule, Kilmaine, Loughmask, Cloonacastle and Partry. Partry had an easy win over Cloonacastle at Ballinrobe on Sunday February 7th, 1926 and the same two teams met again in the semi-final on Sunday March 14th which Partry again won on a scoreline of 1-2 to 0-1.

The scene was then set for the League Final between Shrule and Partry to be played on Sunday March 21st in Ballinrobe with attractive medals as the prize for the winners. Partry came out on top by 0-4 to 0-1, as reported in the *Connacht Tribune* right.

### LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

All roads led to Ballinrobe on Sunday last, to witness the final between Shrule and Partry for the League Championship and a set of medals. Over a thousand people witnessed the match. The first half of the play was full of thrills, and some magnificent football was witnessed. At half time Partry lead by one point. Great excitement prevailed during the last half hour, but the short and narrow ground seemed to destroy Shrule's chances of victory, and two "frees" within a few yards of Shrule goal decided the issue — Partry winning by four points to one point. I think, on a full-sized ground with a few changes in the team, Shrule will beat Partry when they meet again. One of the Christian Brothers, Ballinrobe was referee.



Partry Gaelic Football Team 1926, South Mayo League Champions.

Back: Eddie Gibbons, Dick Feeney, Seán Kelly, Pete O'Malley, Barney Ferris. Middle: Pat Reilly, Thomas Heneghan, Martin Garry, Garda John McGahern, Garda Martin Reynolds, John Joyce. Front: Pake Sheridan, Stephen Casey, Garda Michael Smyth, Shoddy Staunton, Mike McHugh. Original photograph taken by Nicholas A. Faithfull, Ballinrobe.





One of the original medals presented to Partry football team, winners of the Ballinrobe (South Mayo) League Final 1926.

Photographs of local Gaelic football teams from the 1920s are rare but at that time there happened to be an American-born photographer named Nicholas Faithfull living in Ballinrobe who was on hand to capture the occasion for posterity. The Partry team are smartly dressed and proudly display their winners' medals on their lapels. A number of them are also wearing what appears to be shamrock, it being the first Sunday after St. Patrick's Day.

A few months after the Partry footballers won the Ballinrobe League, they bade farewell to two of their main players. Michael Smyth married Bridie Casey of Kilkeeran in the summer of 1926. Police regulations prevented him from serving within 50 miles of his wife's native place so he was transferred to Peterswell, Co. Galway and subsequently to Ballinasloe. That same year, John McGahern made the short move from Partry to a new posting in Ballyheane Garda station. Like Michael Smyth, he also took a local girl, Nora Horan of Srah, as his bride in 1931. Sadly, these two well-respected men who were such good friends in life both died of illness well before their

time. Their colleague Martin Reynolds left Partry in 1927. During his time in the area, he had also been involved in hurling activities and served as a referee for some matches in the Mayo championship.

After Michael Smyth's death in 1949, his son Michael returned to live with his aunt in Partry. He later played football with Ballinrobe CBS and with Partry and Ballintubber before leaving to join the guards. Just a few years later, John McGahern died, also leaving a young family behind. The story of these men, who helped to re-ignite the spirit of Gaelic games in Ballyovey parish in those early years of Saorstát Éireann, deserves to be remembered within the annals of local GAA history. Following after them, several other members of An Garda Síochána have made notable contributions to GAA activities in the area over the years, including Sergeant Manning and Pat Dalton (1940s), John Byrne, Jeremiah Murphy and John Scanlon (Partry handball 1950s), Tom Molloy and Jim Callaghan (both presidents of Tourmakeady GAA club), Tim Beattie, Billy Hennelly, Willie Feeley and Dennis Harrington.



Tuar Mhic Éadaigh beat Shrúle-Glencorrib by three points in the 2011 SFC, the same margin by which Partry beat Shrúle 85 years previously in the South Mayo League Final 1926. © Photo: Steve Fleming.



## ***Football in Partry and Tourmakeady, 1927 to 1944***

Emigration was rife in the parish of Ballyovey in the 1920s and for several decades to follow. In his memoirs, Monsignor James Horan wrote that most of the children during his time in Partry finished school at fourteen years of age and emigrated shortly afterwards because “it was simply accepted as the natural thing to do”. Similarly, the late Tomás Ó hÉanacháin recalled that virtually every one of his classmates in Srah left Ireland and never came back. In such circumstances, it was very difficult to keep a football team going.

However, there are some records of teams from the parish participating in tournaments and local competitions. In April 1928, Partry beat The Farm by four points in a curtain-raiser to an inter-county game between Mayo and Galway played in Ballinrobe. In 1931, a team from Partry participated in the Ballinrobe District League along with Cross, Hollymount, The Farm, Ballinrobe and Ballyglass. At a meeting of the South Mayo Divisional Board in March 1934, reference was made to the possibility of Partry officially affiliating, but this does not appear to have happened. The next report comes from 1938, when Partry lost to Roxboro in a challenge game on a score of 1-3 to 3-3. It was noted that “for some years back football has been allowed to die in this district, and last Sunday’s game did much to revive local interest”. That same year, Partry played in the “Mayo News” Cup competition in South Mayo and were drawn in a group that included Ballinrobe, Kilmaine, The Neale, and Hollymount. The following year, Partry again participated in the Ballinrobe District League.

They beat Roxboro by 2-3 to 2-1 in May 1939 and one of the Ballinrobe men remarked afterwards that “these country teams opened some of the town boys’ eyes”. Sometime about 1941, Partry played Ballintubber in a challenge game in Portroyal. Ballintubber’s Anthony Lally remembers Paddy Prendergast playing in that game: “he was only about 15, but even then he was a great fielder of the ball”.



Paddy Prendergast, the legendary Mayo full-back, played against Partry in the early 1940s

The first reference to football being played in the Tourmakeady half of the parish is from the early 1940s. They may have participated in challenges against teams from neighbouring areas and were invited to participate in a tournament in Leenane in 1944. A few years later, when Tourmakeady played Partry in 1949, the report referred to “old rivalry” being resumed which suggests that the two sides had met on previous occasions, perhaps the early 1940s.

# MAYO FOOTBALLERS OF THE 1920s: JOE HORAN AND JOHN McGAHERN

m. j. o. u. h. o. r. a. n.

John McGahern

It is almost certain that the first two footballers from the parish of Ballyovey to wear the county colours were Joe Horan (Portroyal) and Garda John McGahern (Partry). They were both members of the Mayo team that lost to Louth by a single point in the 1925 All-Ireland Junior Football Final, which because of delays was not played until June 1926. On that occasion, John McGahern led the Mayo attack from centre-forward and Joe Horan was ahead of him at full-forward.

Later that same year, these two men played together for Mayo Seniors. In the late 1920s, they were both invited to join Castlebar Mitchels and contributed significantly to the subsequent successes of that club. Given the close links in their club and county footballing careers, it is possible that they practiced together and accompanied each other on their travels during those years.

### ***Joe Horan (Portroyal), Mayo footballer and athlete***

Michael Joseph Horan was born in Portroyal in 1905. Following education in Partry National School and St. Jarlath's College, he chose to pursue the same career as his father

and entered St. Patrick's Teacher Training College in Drumcondra. While there, he captained the St. Patrick's College football team (Erin's Hope) in the Dublin county league and championship.

He was a tall, athletic man who was known for his prowess in the high jump, long jump and 100 yards sprint, in which disciplines he won several prizes at athletics meetings all over South and West Mayo. In the high jump – which at that time was a straddle style as opposed to the modern 'flop' – he could comfortably clear a height of 5 feet 5 inches. Local folklore has it that he once beat the Connacht long jump champion with ease at an event in Cong. He is on record as having jumped 22 feet 2½ inches at a Connacht open competition in Castlebar in August 1926. To put that in context, the bronze medallist at the 1924 Olympic Games jumped 23 feet 9½ inches.



Joe Horan aged 20 years, pictured in 1926, at which time he was captain of Erin's Hope football team (St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra). Later that same year, he played for Mayo Juniors in the delayed 1925 All-Ireland final

It was probably his ability to jump high that led the county selectors to position him at full forward on the Mayo team that contested the 1925 All-Ireland Junior Football Final. This game was not played until June 1926, perhaps as a result of all the delays and confusion surrounding the 1925 Senior Championship. Mayo had actually been declared the All-Ireland Senior Champions of 1925 but ended up forfeiting the title. So when the Mayo Juniors were back in an All-Ireland Final in Croke Park the following June, a sizeable contingent of supporters travelled to Dublin in the hope of seeing the county win its first All-Ireland title in any grade. Alas it was disappointment again as Louth brought home the laurels on a scoreline of 2-6 to 2-5.



Connacht Junior  
Football Champions  
1925

In October 1926, Joe Horan and two other men from Partry, Gardaí John McGahern and Michael Smyth, attended trials for the Mayo senior team. The following week, Horan and McGahern were both selected to play against Galway in the Connacht Senior Football League in Athenry.

In 1929, Joe Horan was full-back on the Castlebar Mitchels Senior team that registered that club's first championship victory over Ballina in 27 years. John McGahern, who at that stage had moved from Partry to Ballyheane, was also on the Mitchels team and in very good form. So when the Mayo Junior and Senior teams were announced

for the opening round of the Connacht championship, two separate writers in the *Connaught Telegraph* expressed disbelief that McGahern and Horan were overlooked. Later that season, John McGahern did earn a call-up to the Mayo team but Joe Horan never got his second chance in the county colours. The following year, his performances in the half-back line helped Castlebar Mitchels win the Mayo Senior Football Championship of 1930. Then on one Sunday evening, as he made his way back to Tourmakeady for work in Treanlaur National School, his motorcycle ran into a flock of sheep and he was flung onto the road. That accident ended his sporting career.

In 1932, on his father's retirement, he became principal of Partry National School and continued in that role until his own retirement in 1971. In the 1940s and 1950s, when his own sons were playing football, he was involved for a while with Ballintubber GAA club, there having been no club in Partry or Tourmakeady at that time.

Joe Horan can take his undisputed place in the history of Gaelic games in Ballyovey parish as the first native of the area to play for Mayo in an All-Ireland Final and the first to play for Mayo at Senior level.

### ***Garda John McGahern of Cavan, Mayo and Connacht***

John McGahern originally came from near Gowna, Co. Cavan but spent the greater part of his life in Mayo, initially in Partry and later in Westport. He entered An Garda Síochána in May 1923 and featured prominently with the Civic





John McGahern in the colours of his native county Cavan about 1918

Guards team in the Dublin Senior League and Championship. At that stage he was already a noted inter-county forward, having won two Ulster Senior Football Championship medals with Cavan in 1918 and 1920. He missed out on a third Ulster medal by the narrowest of margins in the 1922

final. John McGahern stood 5'9" in height and was of strong physique. Newspaper reports tell of his ability to kick neat scores from tight angles, and he was also very quick to react to any goal-scoring opportunity.

Upon completion of his Garda training, he was posted to Partry station in November 1924. Within a few months of his arrival, he was selected for the Mayo Junior team and was dominant at midfield against Sligo in the Connacht championship in July 1925. In March 1926, he played with the Partry team that won the South Mayo League. Two months later, he played a starring role for the Mayo seniors against Galway in the opening round of the Connacht Senior Football League. The previous October, Galway defeated Mayo in the delayed 1925 Connacht Senior Final and in so doing

deprived Mayo not just of a provincial title but also an All-Ireland title because of the bizarre circumstances of that year's championship. So it was with much glee that 3,000 Mayo supporters witnessed their team give Galway a good beating on May 3rd 1926 in Balla. The *Western People* reported that "McGahern was playing a wonderful game" and despite their best endeavours the Galway backs simply had no answer to his "brilliant play". Time and again, he cut through for score after score and set up numerous moves. One wonders if he had been playing against Galway the previous October, Mayo might have won their first Senior All-Ireland title.

As it turned out, he so very nearly delivered an All-Ireland title to Mayo with his outstanding performance in the Junior All-Ireland Final of 1925, which was played in Croke Park on June 21st, 1926. Again, he was Mayo's chief scorer that day but his efforts came up narrowly short as the team lost by just one point to Louth. Further disappointment came three weeks later when he was on the Mayo Senior team that lost the Connacht Senior Championship final to rivals Galway. In November 1926, he was selected on the Connacht team and scored the winning point in the Inter-Provincial Championship semi-final against Leinster.

Word of John McGahern's talent reached the ears of the Castlebar Mitchels captain, John Egan. Speaking in the 1980s, he remembered that:

*"There was a fellow called John McGahern, a guard in Partry ... He was a lovely footballer. I cycled to Partry and*



Connacht Senior Football League Winners 1926

*asked him to play for us. He came down and won two or three medals with us and without him we would not have been as good"*

This must have happened in 1926 because the following year John McGahern was stationed in Ballyheane and was playing with Castlebar. In 1927, he was a substitute on the Connacht team in the Railway Cup Final in Croke Park, and he also played on the Mayo Senior team that lost to Galway in the Connacht championship semi-final. In the Spring of the following year, he played in the National Football League play-offs against Kildare and Kerry, but he either fell out of favour or out of form for the rest of the 1928 season because he was dropped from the Mayo panel. Finally, in 1929, he won a Connacht Senior Football Championship medal to add to his two



Connacht Senior Football  
Champions 1929

Ulster medals, but in the All-Ireland semi-final a fancied Mayo team lost to Kerry. That was John McGahern's last appearance in the green and red. At club level, he helped Castlebar Mitchels win the 1930 Mayo Senior Championship.

In 1931, he married Nora Horan from Srah. They settled in Westport where he spent the remainder of his life until 1956. The period from 1933 to 1952 was a golden era in the footballing fortunes of his native county Cavan and his adopted county Mayo. His daughter Rosaleen remembers him listening with great interest to radio commentaries every Sunday in those years.

During the period that John McGahern lived in Partry, he won the South Mayo League with the local football team and in the colours of Mayo he won a Connacht Senior League and a Connacht Junior Championship. He also played an important part in revitalising football in Partry in the 1920s. The link with Ballyovey parish remains alive to this day because his daughter Bernadette currently resides in Srah in her mother's homeplace.



Moonlight in Mayo. "I was born near Lough Gowna and was struck by the vastness of Lough Mask in comparison. It is a most beautiful sight on a moonlit night." (Owen Denny, founder member 1965)

# GAELIC FOOTBALL IN BALLYOVEY PARISH: 1945 - 1964

***“I recall playing football in in ‘The Priest’s Field’ in Partry in the 1940s. Very few of us had football boots! At the national school we played in the school yard. The ball was made up of paper tied up with string. I remember vividly the first leather football we bought, following a big collection. I also remember when we bought our first set of blue jersies. This was quite an occasion.”***

*– Frank Horan, native of Partry now domiciled in Luton*

Footballing activities were quiet during the years of the Second World War but play resumed in the late 1940s. At that point in time, there was no football club within several miles of Ballinrobe. In May 1947, trials were held for the Ballinrobe Juniors amongst a panel of over 60 players drawn from the catchment of Ballinrobe, Partry, Kilmaine, Shrule, and Hollymount. Amongst the Partry players requested to attend the trial games were P. Burke, James Casey, P. Casey, P. Keane, T. Burke, and E. Heneghan. Joe Horan from Partry acted as the referee.

Also in 1947, St. Jarlath’s College won the All-Ireland Senior College Championship for the first time. At right half back on the St. Jarlath’s team was Mick O’Malley from Churchfield. When a new football club was established in Tourmakeady in 1949, he became the captain of the team. The founding committee of Tourmakeady GAA club included Rev. A. Fair, Rev. T. Canning, T. Rabbette NT and Tony Timoney who kept the books. A set of green and white jerseys was purchased at a cost of £6 and 10 shillings and the new club affiliated to the South Mayo Board.

### ***The Summer of ‘49***

Tourmakeady GAA club was very active in the summer of 1949. On Sunday July 3rd, they hosted a seven-a-side tournament in a field beside the church in Gorteenmore. It was a day that Jimmy McNally, the captain of the Ballintubber team, would remember for the wrong reasons but he was able to laugh at it in hindsight. He had constructed a special trailer, “a fine job”, to transport his players from Ballintubber to Tourmakeady. They all made their way by bicycle to his house and mounted the trailer. But a vigilant policeman stopped the tractor at the Goat Hotel and when he counted seven men in their Sunday best clothes in the back, Jimmy found himself before the court for no tax and carrying men for hire. The second charge was dismissed but he was fined 10 shillings for his troubles.

Three weeks later, Tourmakeady took part in a well-attended seven-a-side tournament in Clonbur, for which the prize was seven return train tickets to the All-Ireland Football Final and tickets to the Hogan Stand. The teams participating were Ballinrobe, Tourmakeady, The Neale, Clonbur, Caherlistrane and Oughterard.



Ballinrobe beat Tourmakeady in a fast, clean game by 2-1 to 2-0. Tourmakeady also played a number of challenge games against Aughagower, Ballyburke, and Partry that year. The *Connaught Telegraph* carried the following report of an encounter that took place at the beginning of October:

*Gaelic football enthusiasts who witnessed the challenge match between Ballyburke and Tourmakeady on Sunday got full value for their money. Tourmakeady were favourites on account of a previous win, but Ballyburke fielded their full team on Sunday, and this resulted in an even contest. The home team played with it strong breeze in the first half, but the forwards over used the ball and, with the close tackling of the Tourmakeady backs, they found it hard to get in any direct shots. Half-time score was 0-2 in favour of Ballyburke. The resumption of play saw a great Tourmakeady rally, but Kirby, the full-back, saved matters. Every man of the home team put everything he had into it, and although it is hard to single out any player for special mention, George O'Malley, Jim Costello, Owen O'Grady, Michael Joyce and Broddie Kirby deserve to be praised for outstanding displays. After some ten minutes of play in the second half, Tourmakeady had a goal per Mulroe, to give them the lead. Five minutes later Ballyburke again led when they had a goal. The visitors here lost their best man when O'Malley had to retire owing to an ankle injury. With the advantage of the breeze they levelled the scores in the closing stages of the game, and the result – a draw – is a good indication of the evenness of the play.*

## ***Tourmakeady and Partry renew rivalry***

Sometime around this period in the late 1940s when Mick O'Malley helped to start a new club in Tourmakeady, his St. Jarlath's College team mate, Bartley Horan from Tooreen, was also actively involved in getting football going again in the other half of the parish. He rallied the troupes in Partry and they bought themselves a set of blue and white jerseys. And so it came to pass that at the end of 1949, rivalries on the playing pitch were renewed between Partry and Tourmakeady. Mick O'Malley missed this game on account of having injured his ankle a short while previously. The match was reported in the *Mayo News* of November 12th, 1949:

*Old rivalry was resumed at Tourmakeady on Sunday last when a team from Partry and the home fifteen met in a thrilling encounter. It was a game that will long be remembered for the fine spirit of sportsmanship in which it was played. High catching and long kicking were the order of the day. After a gruelling first half in which both sets of backs excelled, the scores stood Tourmakeady 0-2 Partry 0-2. After the interval, however, the superiority of Tourmakeady soon showed itself. Collins and Kelly took complete charge of centre field and despite heroic efforts of Horan, Newell and Bourke, the final whistle found Tourmakeady leading on the score Tourmakeady 1-7 Partry 0-2. The Tourmakeady team was composed of M.Walshe, T. O'Donoghue, T. Timoney, T. Thornton, S. Molloy, T. Walshe, P. Mulroe, B. Collins, L. Kelly, T. Coyne, P. Dalton, P. Gallagher, S. Morrin, T. Mulroe, T. Barker. At the same venue Tourmakeady Juveniles had a good win over Srath.*

### ***Tourmakeady Football League, Winter 1949/'50***

In the winter of 1949/'50, Tourmakeady GAA club organised a local football league amongst teams from the parish. In the opening game on December 18th 1949, St. Brendan's and Erin's Hope ended level on a score of 2-1 each. Leading players for St. Brendan's were Mulroe, Walsh, Coyne and Donoghue, while Thornton, Dolan, Costello, T. Collins and Lydon played well for Erin's Hope. The *Mayo News* anticipated another rousing struggle in the next game, to be played between the Shamrocks and St. Patrick's teams, and noted that all participants were very keen to win the Tourmakeady league, for which the prize was a pair of football boots.

### ***South Mayo Championship 1950***

On April 23rd 1950, Tourmakeady played Ballinrobe in the first round of the South Mayo Championship at home. It was a very windy day

and Ballinrobe, with the elements in their favour, built up a lead of ten points by half-time.

Tourmakeady recovered well in the second half but were unable to reduce the deficit. The match was reported in the *Western People*:

*One of the best plays of football yet seen in the West was witnessed at Tourmakeady last Sunday, when the home team lined out against Ballinrobe in the South Mayo Championship. Despite a strong wind, which at times played havoc with the game, both teams gave a really first class performance, especially at midfield. The visitors were much stronger and displayed more lasting power, while Tourmakeady were fast and showed a marked improvement since their last outing. After a hard hour's struggle Ballinrobe ran out winners on the score 3-7 to 1-4. They were ably served by O'Neill, McGing, Carraway, Cronin, Hennelly, and Colleran while Coakley, O'Malley, Collins, Dalton, Kelly and Gallagher were prominent for the losers.*

In the 1950s, football was played in the "Priest's Field" directly beside St. Mary's Church, Tourmakeady. This field is now the site of the Goirtín na Coille housing estate. In the same townland, football games were also played in "The Warren" down by the lake shores. That ground was later acquired by Coillte and planted with trees. It is currently part of the estate of Drimbawn House.



The *Mayo News* also covered this game and in addition to the aforementioned, Jennings for Ballinrobe and Philbin for Tourmakeady were mentioned for giving good performances.

In August, Tourmakeady declared their intention of playing in the South Mayo O'Mara Cup in 1950/'51 but no record of their participation in this competition exists. It appears that Tourmakeady did not formally affiliate again in 1951 because their captain, Mick O'Malley, was a member of The Neale team that reached the Junior County Final that year. It is unlikely that he would have left Tourmakeady if the club was still in existence.

### **7-a-side / 9-a-side football in Tourmakeady and Partry in early 1950s**

Even though there was no affiliated 15-a-side football club in Ballyovey parish from 1951 onwards, teams from Tourmakeady and Partry continued to participate in 7-a-side and 9-a-side competitions against neighbouring opposition. Partry took part in the Ballintubber tournament in April 1951 and two months later, teams from Partry and Tourmakeady met each other at a tournament in Tourmakeady. The *Western People* carried the following report:

*Ideal weather favoured an exceptionally good seven a side tourney at Tourmakeady on last Sunday. All games were keenly contested and the large crowd present enjoyed a splendid day's entertainment. Messrs. Durkin and Duffy of Balla Piper's Band enlivened the proceedings with selections of Irish airs at intervals, after previously leading the teams on to the field to the*

*strains of "Faith of Our Fathers" followed by the National Anthem. The enjoyable day was brought to a happy close when the teams were entertained in the home of Mrs. Durkin. All connected with the tourney are to be congratulated on the success which attended their effort. The games resulted as follows, winners being first mentioned in all cases: 1st round Partry 1 v Tourmakeady, Ballinrobe v Partry 2, Ballintubber v Ballyvarry. 2nd round Westport v Partry 1, Ballintubber v Ballinrobe. Final Ballintubber v Westport. Ladies who had charge of catering arrangements. Misses Maureen Durkan, B. Derrig, N. Derrig, K. Derrig, Eilish and Evelyn Higgins, N. Diver, T. Lennon, C. Clarke, K. Molloy and Mrs. Manning. Gent's organising committee President Rev. Fr. Fair CC, Chairman Rev. Fr. Canning, Sec - Sergeant Manning, Treas. M. Lydon, and members Messrs P. Maloney, T. Gibbons, M. Burke, J. Coady, T. Heneghan NT, P. Dalton, T. Barker, B. Griffin, T. Molloy and \_\_\_ Heaney.*

The winter of 1951 saw a 9-a-side league being run in Ballintubber, the purpose of which was to "keep the players in practice and test out other men". Tourmakeady and Partry entered this competition, as did teams from Ballintubber, Ballyheane, Ballyglass, and Belcarra. The league was run on a home and away basis and each club was required to contribute 15% of gate receipts to defray the estimated overall costs of £30. The only surviving report of any match in this competition is of the meeting of Partry and Ballintubber in the first round, which Partry won comfortably on a scoreline of 3-1 to 0-2. To the fore for the Partry team were Tommy and Martin Philbin, Newell,





Tomás Ó hÉanacháin NT was on the organising committee of the Tourmakeady football tournament in April 1951

and Keaney. The game was impartially refereed by Dick Feeney of Ballintubber, who himself had played with Partry in 1926.

The following year, Tourmakeady and Partry again entered a 7-a-side tournament in Ballintubber which was fixed for June 1, 1952. Other

teams invited were Ballinrobe, Balla, Ballintubber, Castlebar, Carramore, Claremorris, Islandeady, Kilmaine, The Neale, and Westport. The advertisement for the tournament implored football fans not to miss “the event of the season” in which the “leading footballers from South and West Mayo” would battle for honours. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the tournament did not go ahead as planned and was postponed until August. In a reversal of the winter league result, Ballintubber exacted revenge with an easy victory over Partry. The only Partry players mentioned in that match report were Heverin and Keaney.

In the early to mid-1950s, Seán Gibbons remembers playing in the blue and white jerseys of Partry. Other players included the Horan brothers, the Philbin brothers, Alec Coakley, Michael Smyth, and Eddie Gibbons. The latter two were sons of men on the Partry 1926 team. Partry participated in 15-a-side challenge games against

teams from Carras, Ballintubber and elsewhere and fared well. The games were played in the “Priest’s Field” in Partry village. Football was also played in a field in Aughnish and in “Mac’s Lane” out the Westport road.

### ***Partry win the Ballyglass Tournament (1953)***

In June 1953, Partry competed in a 7-a-side tournament as part of Ballyglass Annual Sports and qualified for the final by beating Carramore and Ballyclogher. On the other side of the draw, Ballintubber came through after defeating Carnacon. Because it was getting dark, the final between Partry and Ballintubber was postponed and was played a few weeks later in O’Malley’s field, on which occasion the *Connaught Telegraph* reported that:

*Partry fielded a very strong team and were victorious over the homesters to the tune of 4-6 to 3-1. The winners were best served by Horan and Gibbons in the backs, the Philbin brothers at centre-field, and Byrne in the forwards.*

The latter person mentioned in the report was Garda John Byrne, a native of Inishowen, Co. Donegal, who was then stationed in Partry and was the free-taker on the team. Now retired and back again living in Partry, he recalls playing in that tournament final of 1953:

*“There were a few of us from Partry who were playing with the Ballintubber Juniors at that time, - myself, Aidan and Con Horan, the Philbins, and Alec Coakley. There was a qualifying section in that tournament in Ballyglass and as it turned out, we ended up*

*playing the other half of our own Junior team in the final. And we won it. I was in the forwards for Partry and Jimmy McNally was against me for Ballintubber. I remember getting around Jimmy and him roaring at me 'John, John, stop!'. But I tapped the ball with the side of my foot and it just made it over the goal line before Jimmy could get to it. And I won't tell you what Jimmy said to me, it's unrepeatable!", he laughed.*

Even though there were quite a few players in Partry at that time, they never trained collectively, just came together for matches. "The only training that I got was walking the roads on duty", remembers John Byrne. "I would have walked from Partry out to the Goat Hotel and over to Ballintubber and, if time was in my favour, over to the abbey. And along the way I'd meet people and stop for a chat. Mayo football was at its zenith at that time, they won two All-Ireland titles in those years and football was the talk of the place".

### ***Efforts to form a combined Gaelic football club in Ballyovey parish***

Towards the end of 1953, rumours abounded that Tourmakeady and Partry were intending to amalgamate. The correspondent for the *Mayo News* commented that "when affiliated, the new team to be selected from the wealth of talent available will be a mighty force to be reckoned with and will undoubtedly cause worry to any opposing team in South Mayo". A large crowd attended a challenge match between Tourmakeady and Partry in Lydon's field, Tourmakeady on Sunday October 18th, 1953. The Partry team "showed combination par excellence, marked by high fielding and powerful long clearances"

whereas "lack of coaching and training was evidenced among the Tourmakeady players". Partry won on a score line of 3-8 to 0-7.

Partry had a number of outstanding players in the early 1950s. Amongst them was Aidan Horan, a St. Jarlath's College footballer, who is remembered by several of his contemporaries as a superb forward of inter-county standard. Unfortunately, the only opportunity he received to don the green and red came in America where he captained the Mayo New York club. Aidan's younger brother Con was also a good player. As a youngster, he played in goals and in 1956 he played at full-forward and midfield with the Mayo Minors. Another of Partry's stars was Mattie Philbin from Derrew. He is described by one of his team mates as "a brilliant footballer ... he wasn't tall but if he was in the middle of a crowd of players, he'd invariably come out with the ball; Mattie had very big hands and once he got the ball, he held on to it". Like the Horans, Mattie Philbin also emigrated to England towards the end of 1954. Then there was Alec Coakley, an employee of the Department of Agriculture based in Partry. He was a former Kerry Minor and Munster Colleges footballer who is remembered locally as "a thundering great right full-back". One of his erstwhile colleagues, John K. Byrne, still sprightly at 89 years of age, recalls



Mattie Philbin, Derrew

that on one occasion Alec Coakley was up against Mayo's brilliant corner forward, Peter Solan of Islandeady, and Coakley held his own. John Byrne himself, who was a Garda in Partry at that time, is remembered as "a beautiful freetaker".

Alec Coakley and Mattie Philbin played with Tourmakeady in the 1950 South Mayo Championship. John Byrne was also asked to join Tourmakeady but as he was recovering from a serious illness at that time, he was under advice not to play. Alas, the Tourmakeady club did not last very long. Nor did Bartley Horan's efforts to get a team going in Partry ever really get off the ground. When neither Tourmakeady nor Partry could sustain a team by themselves, and for whatever reason they did not join forces, players drifted to neighbouring clubs. Mick O'Malley joined The Neale. Others played with Ballintubber or Ballinrobe.

Ballyovey's loss was very much Ballintubber's gain because when they won the 1954 Junior Championship, there were five Partry players on the team. Between them, Aidan Horan and John Byrne got most of the scores for Ballintubber in the 1954 county final. That victory was as well received in Partry as it was in Ballintubber and the team was afforded a reception in the local hall.

Further efforts were made towards the end of 1955 to revive the GAA in Tourmakeady with a view to entering the Junior Championship the following year. An 11-a-side game was played between Treanlaur and Drimcoggy on October 16th, 1955 and it ended in a draw. The replay was fixed for the following Sunday alongside a game between Killateeun/Cappanacreha versus Trean/Churchfield. The winners of these two

matches were then to play off in a final "to decide the crown for the half-parish". The outcome of that final is not recorded, but what is known is that Tourmakeady did not affiliate a Junior team the following year. They did however participate in a 7-a-side tournament in Partry in August 1956 in aid of parochial funds. Tourmakeady defeated Partry in the first round of that tournament but lost to Ballinrobe in the semi-final.

### ***Players of the 1950s and 1960s***

From 1952 until 1965, most footballers from Tourmakeady and Partry played with Ballintubber. For a period in the mid- to late 1950s, Con Horan and a few other young players from the parish played with Ballinrobe because the Mayo County Board issued a ruling that if there was no club in a player's home parish, he must play with the club where he attends school.

In 1960, an amalgamated team from West Mayo made up of players from several Junior clubs entered the Mayo Senior Football Championship. They went all the way to the county final and beat Castlebar Mitchels to claim the title. There were two Tourmakeady men on the team that won that county championship: Mickey Heneghan from Srah at centre half-back, and Mickey Dermody from Gortnacullin in the half-forward line.



Mickey Heneghan,  
Srah



They were both outstanding footballers. Of Mickey Dermody, one of his playing colleagues said “give him a ball 30 yards out on the left side and it was definitely over the bar”. Mickey Heneghan was just 19 years of age in that Mayo Senior final but he was physically very strong. The previous year, he played at full-back for the Mayo Minors that lost to Galway in the Connacht final. But as he explains himself, it was fortuitous how he started playing football:

*It was totally by accident that I became involved with a football team. I had some aunts and uncles out in Chicago and they sent me home a few dollars. I wanted to get a football. I couldn't get a leather one so I got a rubber one. We had a barn with a big gable and I used to kick the ball against that gable and jump up to catch it as it came back to me. And this one time I kicked the ball and went up to catch it and somebody else's hands were about a foot above me. Who was it only Murteen Prendergast and Willie Casey, who I believe played for Mayo for a few years. At that time (1955), they were installing the electricity in Srah. And Murteen said “are there any other lads like you around here?”. I said “there are a few”. So we were invited down to practice in Ballintubber at 2 o'clock the following Sunday and that's how I got started.*



Martin O'Malley,  
Srah



Martin Lydon,  
Shanvallycahill



Mickey Dermody,  
Gortnacullin

Mickey Heneghan remembers there being quite a few others in Tourmakeady who played football at that time. Other than himself and Mickey Dermody, there was Martin O'Malley and Kevin Rabbette from Srah, and further back there was “Padraigín Punch” (Lydon?), “John Willie”, and the Lydon and Fallons brothers. Martin Lydon from Shanvallycahill also played for Ballintubber and was a “damn good corner forward”.

In the 1960s, Joe Mulrooney of Partry was involved as a selector with Ballintubber GAA club and he made it his business to call over to Tourmakeady to collect a few fellows who had a mind for football. They included Gaeltarra Éireann employees Seán Ó Sé, Seán Ó Cróinín, Michael Waters and Tom Garvey. From Partry came players such as Tom Staunton and J.J. Newell, and there were the O'Malleys from Srah. And then, in the summer of 1965, a few of these young men decided that they wanted to go it alone and start a team of their own in Tourmakeady. A whole new adventure was about to begin.

## ***Recollections of a local football match in the 1940s***

*by Jim Burke (native of Kilfaul)*

I remember a Derrew/Kilfaul team playing against Cloonee in “Stephen’s Field” in the early 1940s. With the exception of one player, John Lally, all the players were past pupils of Derrew NS. I would say that at least 80% of those in attendance arrived on foot at the venue as there weren’t any motor vehicles at the time. Nearly every house in the neighbourhood of the two teams was represented.

I don’t know who arranged the match. A friendly rivalry existed and whilst there was no rancour or violence of any nature during the match, all the players fought with great spirit and determination to uphold the good name of the “little village”. A

man from Cortoon, Ballintubber was the referee.

The Burkes formed the backbone of the Derrew/Kilfaul team and held key positions on the field such as full-back, centre-half, midfield, centre-forward, and full forward. As far as I can recollect, we hadn’t a full fifteen and the names of those I remember are listed below. There may have been others.

The match aroused tremendous interest locally and it was great to see the number of old people who attended. The “match” was the main topic of conversation for at least two weeks beforehand. The standard of football wasn’t very high as there was a tendency by some of the players to follow the ball and not to maintain the position allocated to them. I suppose this was expected to some extent because it was the first match that most of



The Burke family,  
Kilfaul.

Six brothers  
played on a  
Derrew/Kilfaul  
team against  
Cloonee in the  
1940s

them had ever played in.

The contest was a bit one-sided as Derrew/Kilfaul took command from the very start and their early goals had a demoralising effect on the Cloonee team. The goalposts were long poles and the crossbar was a piece of hemp rope. “Trilby” was in goal for Derrew/Kilfaul and, as far as I can recollect, he wore his hat during the match. Not all the players wore togs. There was no cup or medals for the winners, but for me the sense of pride and achievement in being part of the winning team was sufficient. I still treasure the success of that happy event.

Teams: Derrew/Kilfaul – Bartley Burke, Michael Burke, Patrick Burke, Thomas Burke, James Burke, William Coyne, John Lally, Patrick Philbin, John Philbin, James Newell, Michael Newell, Michael Gibbons, Jim Burke.

Cloonee – William Gibbons, John Gibbons, Patrick Heneghan, Patrick Casey, Eamonn Heneghan, Séamus Heneghan, Peter Keane, Patrick Keane, Patrick Carroll, Thomas O'Malley, Thady Derrig, James Gibbons.

*This article originally appeared in “Partry: The Place We Call Home” (2000).*

## ***Tribute to Tony Timoney***

*by Mary Timoney, Castlebar*

My father Tony Timoney was born in Crossmolina and began to play Gaelic football with the local boy's national school in the 1930s. Parish news articles name him on a team that played in a street league in Crossmolina town in 1940. On coming to Tourmakeady in the late 1940s, he became an active member of the local GAA club. Sadly I have only vague memories of events he spoke of. I recall the name Fr. Tom Canning who had a car and ferried players around. I also remember that training took place in the priest's field near the church. They were happy days for him.

Dad always continued to support and enjoy both club and county football and I know he would have been proud of being remembered on the special occasion of the 50th anniversary of CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh.



Tony Timoney and Breege Durcan on their wedding day in Tourmakeady in 1951. Tony played with the Tourmakeady football team in the 1940s/50s and was an officer of the club.

*Mary Timoney is a retired school teacher who formerly worked in S.N. na Sraithe and S.N. Trian Láir.*



## ***Cuimhní faoi fhoireann Thuar Mhic Éadaigh 1950***

*le Peatsaí Mac Dhuardcáin (RIP)*



Foireann peile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh 1950-'51. Ar chúl: Tomás Ó Maolalla (An tSraith), Peatsaí Mac Dhuardcáin (TMÉ), Tomás Breathnach (An Cheapaigh Dhuibh), Tomás Ó Droighneáin (An Caithrín), Tomás Mac Dhuardcáin (An Cheapaigh Dhuibh), Seosamh de Búrca (An Cheapaigh Dhuibh), Liam Breathnach (An Cheapaigh Dhuibh), Tomás Ó Maolruaidh (Leitir Fhinín). Chun tosaigh: Breandán Ó Coileáin (garraíodóir i gColáiste Muire), Seán Ó Maolmhuidh (An Cheapaigh Dhuibh), Seosamh Mag Eathach (Siopa Uí Thuathail), Mícheál Ó Máille (Páirc an Teampaill), Antaine Ó Tiománaigh (Trián Láir), Labhras Ó Ceallaigh (garraíodóir i dTeach Dhroim Bháin), Mícheál Ó Doláin (An Cheapaigh Dhuibh). Ar dheis: An tAthair Fair.

Nuair a d'iarr Tomás Óg Ó hÉanacháin orm píosa a scríobh don *Waterfall* (1993), rith sé liom roinnt bheag cuimhní cinn a chur le chéile faoin bhfoireann peile ó 1950-'51 a bhfuil a bpictiúir in eagrán na bliana 1992. Dála an scéil, nuair a chonaiceas ar dtús an pictiúir sin, shíleas nach Tommy s'againne a bhí ann ar chor ar bith, ach ár

gcol ceathrar Paddy as Droim an Chogaidh, ach ritheann sé liom anois go mb'fhéidir go raibh Paddy imithe go Meiricea faoin am sin. Níl fhios agam an bhfuil aon duine eile den fhoireann sin curtha seachas Tommy agus Mícheál Ó Máille, beirt a cailleadh i mblath a n-óige, go ndéanfaidh Dia grásta orthu. Cé go rabhas féin dhá bhliain is

fíche nuair a tógadh an pictiúir, má tá na dátaí cruinn, ní cuimhin liom foireann peile a bheith i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh roimhe sin agus tá mé cineál in amhras an raibh muid cláraithe mar chlub fiú ag an am sin.

Ar ndóigh bhí ainm Mhícheál Uí Mháille go mór in airde faoin am sin mar bhí bonn Chorn Uí hÓgáin buaite aige le Coláiste Iarfhilthá ó 1947 agus is féidir go raibh bonn Sigerson aige ón Ollscoil i nGaillimh freisin agus é ar tí a bheith ina fhear ionad ar fhoireann an chontae. Ní dóigh liom gur áibhéal ar bith é a rá gur fhás foireann sin Thuair Mhic Éadaigh ón gceangal a bhí ag Mick agus agam féin le Coláiste Iarfhilthá, ag Tommy le Coláiste Éanna agus Joe Burke a bhí i gcoláiste freisin. Thíos ins an Warren, - an bhfuil sé fós ann sa gcrot sin, - a bhíodh na cluichí againn. Ní fhéadfainn gan Mattie Philbin a lua, fear a bhí roinnt níos sine ná an chuid eile againn ach a mbíodh an-fhonn air a bheith páirteach sna cluichí, é ag imirt sna cúil agus “cic amach” iontach aige. Ach sílim gur eirigh é bréan den chluiche ar ball agus bhíodh se ag maíomh go mba cheart dúinn “ruby” a imirt agus go n-iocfaí muid.

Ó tharla go bhfuil Brendan Collins garraídeoir sa gcoláiste luaite, ba mhaith liom tagairt a dhéanamh do fhear eile a bhíodh i gColáiste Mhuire agus a bhíodh ag imirt linn, Colm Cartúir as Camus, a dhalladh le Gaeilge muid nuair a bhí cuid againn sách bacadh sa teanga sin. Tá Colm é fein curtha, síochán Dé dó, mar atá fear eile a thugadh an-uchtach don fhoireann ó tháinig sé san áit, an tAthair Canning. Tá Willie Walsh ann - ní as Ceapach Dubh féin ach as Coill Ard, le bheith cruinn - an bhfuil cónaí ar an mbaile sin anois? Trí chomhlúadar a bhí ann, na Breathnaigh, na

Groarkes agus Miss Cullen.

Tá scéal agam faoi Tommy Thornton, más é Tommy Bidy Coyne atá ann ... Ach ar an lámh eile, más é mac Paddy Thornton atá ann, - is dócha gurb é, ó tharla go bhfuil Cairthín luaite leis, - bhí Paddy ar scoil le m'athair féin agus iad ag dul ag na Manaigh, agus bhí sé fós ag obair le Roinn na Gaeltachta nuair a thosas féin ann, fear uasal agus fear a raibh fios a cheirde aige. Maidir le Joe MacGagh, is é an cuimhne is gléine atá agam air ná go raibh mé ag iarraidh bheith mór le cailín deas as Belcarra a bhí ag freastal ar an gcúrsa Gaeilge a bhí i gColáiste Chonnacht ag an am agus gur sciob sé uaim í, le na tabhairt ag an Waterfall ! Ón gcuimhne atá agam ar Larry Kelly, is féidir gur mó cleachtadh a bhí aige ar iomáint ná ar pheil, ach bhí sé Iúfar aiclé agus ba leor sin chun críche na peile a bhí á imirt againn ag an am.

Aisteach go leor, níl morán cuimhne agam ar chluichí á imirt leis an bhfoireann, cés móite de chluiche i mBaile an Tobair , a raibh muintir Paddy Prendergast ag imirt leo agus comórtas seachtar-an-taobh a d'imir muid i Shrúle. Ar ndóigh bhí mé féin imithe ag obair faoin am sin suas thart faoin teorainn i dTír Chonaill ag rath ar smugléirí agus ní raibh an oiread carranna thart ag an am le go bhféadfadh duine filleadh ag an deireadh seachtaine chun cluichí a imirt. Táim cinnte gur mó an t-eolas a bheadh ag Seán Molloy agus ag Tony Timoney, an bheirt amháin a aithním atá fás sa mbaile, is mó a d'fhéadfadh siad sin scríobh faoi na himeachtaí sin ná mise. Agus féach gur thugas "baile" ar Thuar Mhic Éadaigh fós, théis go bhfuilim imithe as i ndáiríre le 44 bliain.

*D'fhoilsíodh an píosa seo in iris bliantúil pharóiste Bhaile Óbha, “Waterfall”, i Nollaig 1993.*



## Cathal Gallagher's early memories ...

*by Cathal Gallagher, San José*

Though I was born in Donegal, I'm a Mayoman at heart. These days I live in California but I still follow the green and red (which requires a little faith and hope). I was a gasúr of just 11 years when we left Tourmakeady in 1949 and moved to Dublin. But looking at the names of the footballers in local newspaper reports from that time, I can recall a few things ...



The P. Gallagher listed on the Tourmakeady team of 1949 was not from our family. He could possibly have been a Guard who arrived when we left (a guess). Of the other players mentioned, Tony Timoney was a barman at O'Toole's. Pat Dalton was a Guard from Limerick. Seán Molloy was Guard Molloy's son. I'm wondering if T.Thornton was Joe's brother, - I played handball with Joe. T.

Mulroe could have been Tom Johnny Andy, that's what they called him. He had a brother Peadar. They came from beyond Maire Luke's.

The most prominent player was Mick O'Malley. He made the Mayo squad as a reserve goalkeeper. He lived back somewhere past Maree's toward Churchfield. Mick may also have been the organiser of the team. The field was located next to the church. Billy Barker lived next to the church and I think he was involved in organising the team. The team played a few challenge matches and an occasional tournament against teams from Ballintubber, Hollymount and elsewhere. Two of my best friends from those days were Michael Morrin from Treanlaur and Martin Keane who lived around Churchfield. A lot of the lads back then went to England or Chicago where there is a good number of Tourmakeady folks.

I recently met Mayo legend Pádraig Carney in Los Angeles. I write plays for the stage and he came to one of my shows. We had a great chat and he told me he goes back to the All-Ireland Final every year. I remember him pointing those long range frees for Mayo in the 1950s, it was no easy task back then as the ball took on weight on rainy days. You can tell the "old-timers" that Pádraig is still in great shape. I enjoyed writing this piece, it is great to re-live those days of my youth. Best regards to the Morrins and anyone else that might remember my family, - we lived right across from O'Tooles.



## RÉALT MHAIGH EO: MÍCHEÁL Ó MÁILLE (MICK O'MALLEY)



The St. Jarlath's team that won the All-Ireland Senior Colleges Championship in 1947. Mick O'Malley is third from left at back. Standing at the very right is the legendary Seán Purcell.

If a team were to be selected of all-time Tourmakeady greats, one of the first names on the list would surely be Mick O'Malley. During an illustrious footballing career in the colours of St. Jarlath's College, University College Galway, and Mayo, he played alongside many of the legends of the game such as Seán Flanagan, Paddy Prendergast, Pádraig Carney, Mick Flanagan, Tom Langan, Peter Solan, Séan Purcell, and Gerry O'Malley.

Mick O'Malley was born and raised in Upper Churchfield, Tourmakeady. His father was the

local postman and his mother was a teacher in Glensaul National School. Following his primary level education, he obtained a scholarship to St. Jarlath's College where he rose to prominence as a scholar and a sportsman. In 1946, the first year in which the All-Ireland Senior Colleges Championship was run, he was on the St. Jarlath's team that lost the All-Ireland final by one point to St. Patrick's Armagh, for whom Tyrone's Iggy Jones scored 3-4 out of his side's total of 3-11. St. Jarlath's exacted revenge the following year by beating the same opponents to bring the Hogan Cup back to Tuam for the first time. Eleven of that

St. Jarlath's team were from Mayo, including Tourmakeady's Mick O'Malley at right half-back. This achievement conferred upon him considerable fame amongst Gaelic football followers because, as Paddy Prendergast put it, "playing for Jarlath's in those years was only one step below beatification".

In 1947, he entered University College Galway as a student on the Bachelor of Engineering degree. He and a number of his St. Jarlath's team mates made the natural progression on to the UCG Sigerson Cup squad. Having been an out-field player for St. Jarlath's, he took on a new role at UCG, that of goalkeeper. From 1947 to 1951, he guarded the net for the Galway university. Former Mayo footballer and GAA President, Dr. Mick Loftus of Crossmolina, played with Mick O'Malley while they attended UCG together. "We were very good friends", he remembers. "We travelled all around the country together to college matches in Cork, Dublin and Belfast. Mick was great craic and a very dedicated fellow". In the 1948/'49 season, Mick O'Malley played his part in UCG's victory over UCD in the Sigerson Cup final, a feat that he repeated in 1950/'51 when UCG beat UCC in the final. His prowess and agility in goals for UCG led one reporter to comment that "this boy promises to be a worthy successor of Mayo's present custodian".

His outstanding performances in the Sigerson Cup earned him a selection as goalkeeper on the Combined Universities team for three years in a row between 1949 and 1951. In 1950 and again in 1951, the Combined Universities took on a Rest

of Ireland selection in Croke Park. Not since the 1920s had a national Gaelic football team been seen and this novel fixture attracted large crowds to watch the inter-county stars in action against the students. In the 1951 encounter, which the Rest of Ireland won by a point, Mick O'Malley faced an opposing full-forward line of Brian Smyth (Meath), Tom Langan (Mayo) and Edwin Carolan (Cavan), all of them Senior All-Ireland medalists. He brought off several wonder saves in that game.

At 19 years of age, he made his senior inter-county debut for Mayo in a challenge against Cavan in Ballina in April 1949. This game was a repeat of the previous year's All-Ireland final in which Cavan had controversially beaten Mayo by one point.

Unfortunately the fixture did not live up to expectations and Cavan emerged as comfortable winners. But Mick O'Malley had broken into the Mayo panel and later that year he won a Connacht Senior Football

Championship medal. Two years later, he was the goalkeeper on the Mayo team that lost the All-Ireland Junior football final to Cork in Croke Park on September 8th 1951. The following day, Mayo took on Meath in the Senior final. Although he is



Mick O'Malley, UCG  
Sigerson Cup  
Champions 1950/'51





Connacht Football Championship medal won by Mick O'Malley in 1951

not listed in the official match programme for that Senior All-Ireland final of 1951, local newspaper reports clearly indicate that he was on the Mayo Senior panel that retained the All-Ireland title that year. Fittingly, his last competitive start for Mayo was back where it all started for him, in

Tuam, against a Galway team that included his former St. Jarlath's, UCG and Combined Universities team mate, the great Seán Purcell. That was in the National Football League in February 1953. His last appearance in a Mayo jersey was as a substitute in a League play-off against Kerry a few weeks later.

At club level, Mick O'Malley was one of the

founder members of Tourmakeady GAA club in 1949. He captained the team in a number of challenge matches and in the South Mayo Championship. The Tourmakeady club did not last long so in 1951 he joined The Neale and played with them in a Junior County Final that year against Charlestown. In 1953, he moved to Clare to take up employment and transferred clubs from The Neale to Ennis Faughs. He subsequently played for the Banner County in the Munster Junior Football Championship.

About that same time, another young custodian from Ballinrobe was beginning to make a reputation for himself. Owen Roe O'Neill (whose nephew Pádraig Ó hÉanacháin later became Tourmakeady GAA chairman) followed in the footsteps of Mick O'Malley by playing in goals for University College Galway, the Combined Universities, and the Mayo Seniors. Owen Roe gave a marvellous display in the 1955 All-Ireland semi-final against Dublin, which Mayo lost by a point following a replay. That game brought down



Combined Universities v Rest of Ireland, Croke Park, February 22, 1950. Peter Donoghue of Cavan scores a goal for Ireland despite the best efforts of Combined Universities players Nicky Redmond (No. 3, UCD/Wexford) and Mick O'Malley (No. 1, UCG/Mayo). Photo: Irish Press.



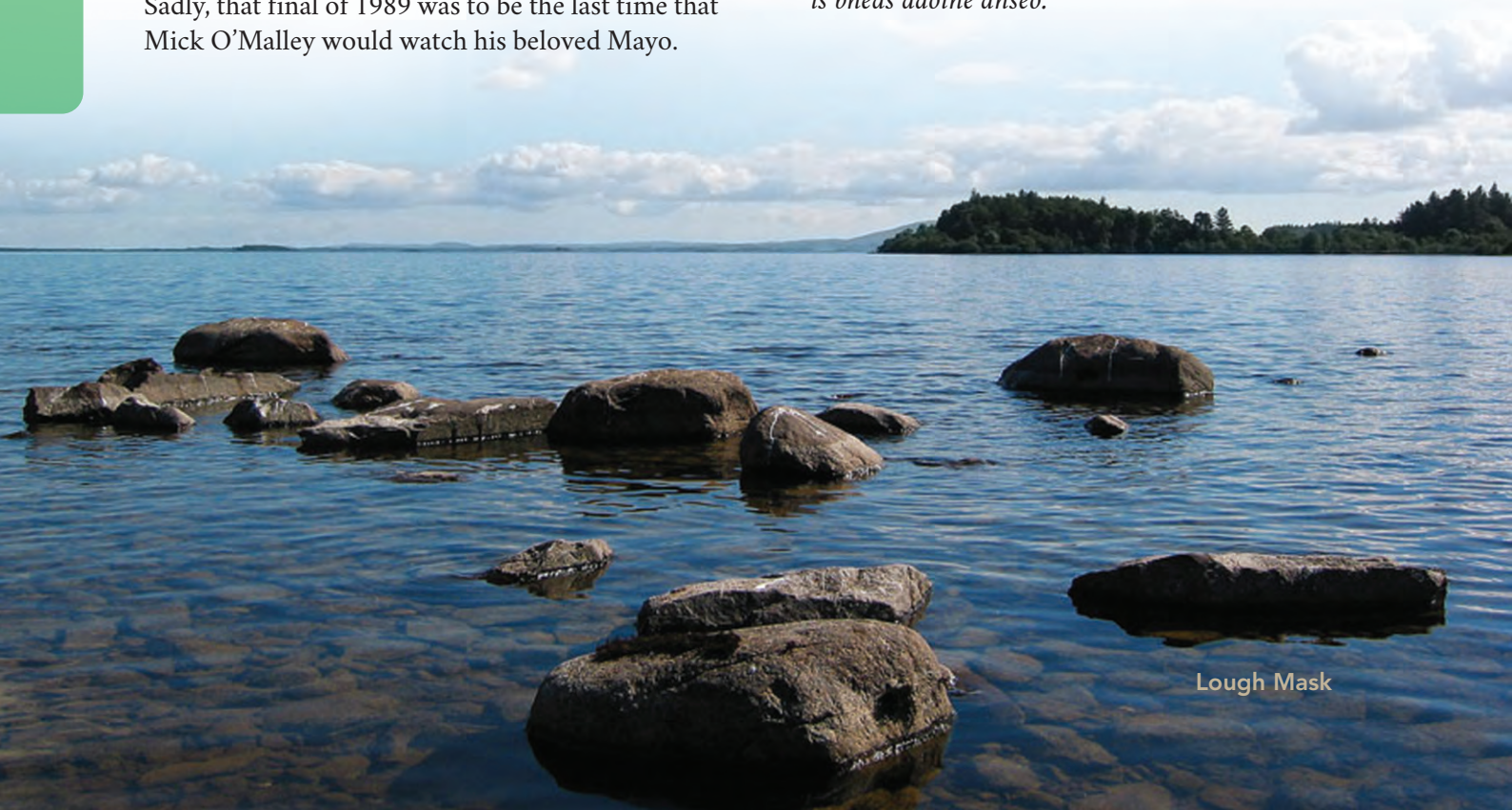
the curtain on Mayo's great team that had captured five Connacht titles and played in six national finals in a glorious era between 1948 and 1955.

The fortunes of Mayo football fell into sharp decline thereafter and the baton was taken up by Galway, who played in six All-Ireland finals between 1956 and 1966 and won four. Mayo waited twelve years before regaining the Connacht title in 1967 and did so again in 1969, but then followed another barren spell of a further twelve years without a provincial title until 1981. In August 1989, Mayo finally bridged a 38-year gap by defeating Tyrone in the semi-final. Jubilation and hysteria gripped the county in the weeks running up to the All-Ireland Final against Cork, which Mayo lost by four points but perhaps could have won.

Sadly, that final of 1989 was to be the last time that Mick O'Malley would watch his beloved Mayo.

Less than a month later, he passed away unexpectedly at the age of 60 years. Hundreds of people from far and wide attended the funeral to pay tribute to a "humble but great man" who in his life time had contributed so much to county Mayo not just through his exploits on the football pitch but also through his work with Údaras na Gaeltachta and as Mayo County Manager from 1975 to 1989, during which time he was involved in several enterprise and infrastructure projects including the development of Knock Airport. His close friend, the late Tomás Ó hÉanacháin of Tawnagh, paid him this glowing tribute:

*"Tá a rian fágtha ag Mícheál ar Chontae Mhaigh Eo agus go deimhin ar Éirinn. Tá muid bródúil as an bhfear seo anseo in a cheantar dhuchais. Is é an príomh fhear - an fear ba mhó a tháinig as an gceantar seo. Beidh cuimhne againn air fhad is bheas daoine anseo."*



Lough Mask

## A NEW CLUB IS BORN: 1965 - 1970

In the summer of 1965, a group of young men came together in Tourmakeady and decided to start a Gaelic football club within the local community. Fifty years on, most of them are still with us and they may look back with great satisfaction on how successful their venture has turned out.

The first record of a game involving this new Tourmakeady team is from Sunday, September 5th 1965, on which day they participated in a 7-a-side tournament in Leenane along with teams from Aughagower, Clare Island, Roundstone, Leenane and Carraroe. Most likely, it was a Gaeltarra Éireann selection that played in that Leenane tournament.

Tourmakeady GAA club was formally established at a public meeting in Tourmakeady Hall on Tuesday, September 7th 1965. The officers elected were Fr. Cribbin (president), Matt Burke (vice-president), Owen Denny (chairman), Martin Heaney (vice-chairman), Seán Ó Cróinín (secretary), Seán Ó Sé (assistant secretary), and Seán Molloy (treasurer). Seán Ó Sé was appointed team captain.

In his opening address, chairman Owen Denny called for full co-operation from all members to ensure that everything was carried out properly in Heaney's field. Membership was set at 2 shillings and 6 pence. A headline in the *Connaught Telegraph* of September 23rd proudly proclaimed that "TOURMAKEADY HAS NEW FOOTBALL CLUB" and that they would compete in the following



The membership fee in 1965 was a half-crown

year's West Mayo Junior Football Championship.

At that time, at least six players from the parish were on the Ballintubber Junior team and were set to transfer to the new club in Tourmakeady. On January 10th 1966, two delegates from Ballintubber attended a meeting of Tourmakeady GAA club and suggested that Tourmakeady and Ballintubber should amalgamate at Junior grade under the name of a Saint. Their

suggestion was turned down so they wished good luck to the new Tourmakeady club. Tourmakeady did amalgamate with Ballintubber at Minor level from 1968 to 1970 under the name of St. Patrick's, but decided to go alone from 1971 onwards in the interests of giving more young players from Tourmakeady an opportunity to develop.

Tourmakeady played their first game on February 13th 1966 when they took on neighbours Ballinrobe in a friendly challenge. On February 22nd, the club's request to affiliate to the West Mayo Board was accepted, having been proposed by Joe Mulrooney (Partry) and seconded by Seán Moylette (Islandeedy). The decision of the West Board was subsequently ratified by the County Board, although not without attracting a remark from the Garrymore delegate that "at some time the County Board should make a decision on where the boundaries between divisions are". This was a reference to the fact that Tourmakeady used to compete in South Mayo in the 1950s.

Indeed, at the end of 1970, a motion was proposed



Tuesday 7/9/65.

Meeting in Tourmakeady Hall. Sean Cronin opened the meeting and called for the election of officers and proposed Mr Owen Denny for Chairmanship. Proposal seconded by Mr Sean Shea. Mr Denny then took over.

In his opening speech as Chairman Mr Denny called for full co-operation from everybody towards the Club and that all members would insure that everything would be carried out properly in Martin Heaney's field i.e. no jumping of fences, that there was one entrance by the gate.

Subjects of discussion were that membership cards would be printed at 2/6 for each person to become a member. Also that we should aim a down to earth fund. That we should arrange a few challenge matches.

### Officers Elected.

Chairman	:	Owen Denny
Vice-Chairman	:	Martin Heaney
Secretary	:	Sean Cronin
Assistant Sec	:	Sean Shea
Treasurer	:	Sean Molloy
President	:	Rev Fr. E. B. B. B.
Vice President	:	Matt Burke
Team Captain	:	Sean Shea

### Others in Committee

Michael Power
Tom Prendergast
Tomas Lydon

### Directors

Christy Greaney
Sean Molloy
Sean Costello
Tom Prendergast



at the AGM of Tourmakeady GAA club to move back into South Mayo. This might have been brought about by the fact that Ballycroy won the North Mayo Junior Championship that year, having just moved out of the West where they had struggled. Team trainer Kevin Melia, a Gaeltarra Éireann employee and Wicklow inter-county footballer, expressed the view that although Tourmakeady might have a better chance of winning honours in the South, they would not attain the same standard of football or come to the attention of the Mayo county selectors. Members agreed and voted to stay in the West.



Advertisement for GAA fundraiser  
(*Western People*, February 12, 1966)

The Tourmakeady team of 1966 was very young and quite raw. Several of the local players had little experience of playing football, there having been no juvenile football in the area before then. But the new club had captured the imagination of the community. The following verses by “Football Fan, Tourmakeady”, which featured in the *Connaught*

*Telegraph* on April 4th 1966, give a sense of the unbridled spirit and optimism of the time:

## ‘Our Football Team’

In Tourmakeady we have a new football team,  
It is a great change and it seems like a dream;  
But like lots of changes it is for the best,  
And in a short while it’ll be one of the best

It consists of young workers all willing to play,  
They are very pretty, happy and gay;  
But apart from their beauty they practice each week,  
So to find them on Sunday, in the pitch you must seek.

These famous young players are captained by Owen,  
And a better young captain will never be known;  
Each time there’s an accident, Owen shouts on team-mate,  
It is Pádraic Feeney who’s there with first aid.

Against other boys this young team has played,  
They lost by some points, but were not mad, they said;  
By mistakes they must learn, we all must agree,  
But shortly it’s winning all games they will be.

To purchase new outfits all had to do,  
And paying for new clothes was not nice, they knew;  
To have a good dance, they all said was right,  
So ‘The Bandits’ played music to a big crowd one night.

To draw to an end their story I must do,  
As shortly their good points will be known to all you;  
And now I must wish them lots of future success,  
And I’m confidently hoping they’ll be best in the West.

Tourmakeady supporters in Heaney's Field, June 5, 1966. From left: Mairéad McAndrew, Joan O'Shea, Bridie Gannon, Nancy Cuffe RIP, Nora Gallagher RIP, Mary McGee, Don Higgins, Philomena Prendergast, Mary Lally, Bridie Meenaghan. © Photo: Liam Lyons (www.liamlyons.com)



Below: The Tourmakeady team that played Achill in the club's first competitive game at Keel on May 1, 1966 in the West Mayo Junior Football Championship. Back: Tom Prendergast, Patrick (Junior) Ronan, Michael Staunton, Tommy Prendergast, Tom Lydon, Jackie O'Brien, Michael T. Lally, Johnny Heneghan, Bernie Dermody, Seán Molloy. Front: Pádraig Feeney, Owen Denny, John Fitzgerald, Seán Ó Sé, Seán Ó Cróinín, Michael Power, Mícheál Ó Broin, Pádraig Óg Ó Cualáin.





Tourmakeady played their first competitive game on May 1st 1966 in the West Mayo Junior Football Championship. It was a baptism of fire because their opponents were Achill, the reigning Junior county champions. The previous month had been terribly wet and football fields all over the county were in a poor state. However, there was no such problem in Achill because their pitch was situated on the sandy banks at Keel. The Tourmakeady team and supporters hired a CIE bus for the occasion. They stopped in Westport to pick up the referee. Looking back now on that famous day, Jim Callaghan and Seán Ó Cróinín can both laugh and say “sure we hardly scored at all!”. The final result was Achill 4-12, Tourmakeady 1-1. To left corner-forward Michael T. Lally fell the honour of scoring Tourmakeady’s first ever goal which was their only score of the first half. Midfielder Seán Ó Cróinín added a point in the second half. The late Seán Staunton covered the game for the *Connaught Telegraph* and reported that:

*Gallant Tourmakeady, making their first ever appearance in the West Mayo junior championship, suffered defeat at the hands of Achill at Keel sandy banks on Sunday. Watched by a large crowd, they did everything they could against a shrewder and more experienced Island combination, but though they had a will to win they just couldn’t find a way. Inexperience in competitive football and lack of team work gradually told as the hour wore on and it was these two factors more than anything else which contributed to their defeat. But, oh, how the cards were stacked against them. In their first outing they were pitted against the county junior champions and were playing at the sandy banks on a pitch that is best known to Achill footballers.*

*But even with staunch home supporters flanking both sides of the field they fought their losing battle with gusto and determination and took their defeat like true sportsmen. Though the writing was on the wall long before the end, they fought bravely to the final whistle and won a healthy respect from opponents and viewers alike.”*

The Tourmakeady team and supporters were undaunted by a 20 point defeat in their opening game. The local press correspondent noted that “the footballers and supporters alike enjoyed the day at the seaside in Keel” and “they have the material to make a well-balanced team, all they need is experience plus fitness and dedication”.

Their second outing against Castlebar resulted in a 28 point beating but the third game against



In May 1966, Tourmakeady players and supporters enjoyed their day at the seaside in Keel. And in June 2015, the club’s U-6s (pictured), U-8s and U-10s did likewise when they were hosted by Achill Bord na nÓg at a “Go Games” event



Kilmeena saw a marked improvement. The Tourmakeady forwards notched up a score of 2-9 in that contest and the match reporter, perhaps in a deliberate pun on the fact that the Tourmakeady players were mainly employees of Gaeltarra Knitwear, noted that “the chief cause of Tourmakeady’s defeat was the inability of their back-line to knit themselves together”. Further improvement came against Breaffy on July 10th. This was the team’s fifth competitive game and they were beginning to settle. On that day, they lost by just three points, 4-4 to 4-7, to a strong Breaffy team who later that year were crowned county champions.

Tourmakeady’s first win came the following week, when they beat Ballinrobe by 3-8 to 3-3 in a challenge match in Heaney’s field.

The players who were involved in the club’s first season in 1966 included Tom Lydon, Tom Prendergast, Pádraig Feeney, Jackie O’Brien, Johnny Heneghan, Seán Fitzgerald, Seán Ó Cróinín, Seán Ó Sé, Michael Power, Mícheál Ó Broin, Bernie Dermody, Owen Denny, Michael T. Lally, Michael Staunton, Patrick Ronan, J.J. Newell, Michael Hennelly, Pádraig Ó Cualáin, John Kennedy, Tom Burke, Patsy Hennelly, Tom Garvey and Tim Beattie. In September 1966, four of them were lost to emigration. Tom Prendergast, Jackie O’Brien, Michael Staunton and Bernie



Tourmakeady defenders John Kennedy, Seán Ó Sé (No. 3) and Michael Power (No. 5) in action against Westport in the West Mayo Junior Football Championship, June 5, 1966  
© Photo: Liam Lyons (www.liamlyons.com)

Dermody attended the All-Ireland football final together to see Galway’s great team achieve the three-in-a-row. They brought their suitcases to Croke Park and headed for the boat to England afterwards.

The secretary’s report at the 1966 AGM concluded that “Last year wasn’t very successful as far as victories were concerned, but that doesn’t mean it wasn’t a successful year ... Casting our mind back on the past twelve months we can be reasonably happy with the outcome”. Although the club had not won any competitive games in 1966, it was up and running and in a good financial position, thanks to the successes of the Ciste na Banban pools and social events in the hall.

The early years of the club were enjoyable but not without their frustrations. As is evident from the minutes of meetings and other contemporary sources, the fact that most of the officers of the club were also players created its own strains and tensions. There were tempestuous exchanges on occasions, both on and off the field. But they were all in it for a common cause and were keen for success. At the 1967 AGM, the secretary remarked that “all we have to show for our year’s work is one outstanding victory over Breaffy ... yet my personal view for what it is worth is that we have a good enough team to be somewhere around the top if we prepared hard enough, but alas that we

didn’t do”. He was not alone in that estimation; Seán Rice, writing then for the *Connaught Telegraph*, said of Tourmakeady that they “had plenty of spirit but lacked the finer points of the game” and that “the signs are there that soon they will blend together and when they do, nothing in the West will stop them capturing their first title”.

Tourmakeady finished in fifth place in the West Mayo Junior Championship in 1968, but the lack of enthusiasm and commitment from some members of the club was again blamed for the failure to do better. In atrocious conditions, they led Castlebar by 11 points at half-time in MacHale Park but let it slip and came away with just a draw.



At the 1968 West Mayo GAA annual dinner in Hotel Clew, Westport, the strongest representation of guests came from the youngest club in the West division – Tourmakeady. Back: Owen Denny, Tom Garvey, Michael Power, Rev. D. Grogan, Seán Cronin, Pádraig Folan, Owen Cronin, Tom McManus, James Heneghan, Seán O’Shea. Front: Una Dever, Eileen O’Malley, Nancy Heneghan, Nora Gallagher, Carmel Spain, Barbara Power, Noreen Gibbons, Josie Gibbons, Patsy Gibbons.



## 1965 - 1970

A draw was also the outcome against Balla. Those two missed opportunities were ultimately very costly in the final standings.

1969 was another inconsistent season. Tourmakeady had a good win over Balla in June but lost heavily to them just a month later, a result that cost them a place in the semi-finals. In the West Wayo Winter League final played on November 30th 1969, Breaffy had a comfortable win over Tourmakeady.

In 1970, Gaeltarra Éireann employees John Quinn and Charlie O'Donnell joined the club. New young talent was beginning to come through with Pat Naughton, Christy Dermody, Michael Meenaghan, and others entering the fold. The ambition to attain a top four spot in the West was finally realised, an improvement of sorts on previous seasons, but Tourmakeady were no match for Westport in the semi-final. Later that year, Tourmakeady again reached the West Mayo Winter League final but lost to Breaffy for the second year in a row.

In its first five years of existence, Tourmakeady GAA club came a long way. Although there was yet no silverware to show, essential foundations had been laid that in a few more years would lead the club on the road to glory.



Above: Former opponents of the 1970s, Chris McGinty (Achill) and Michael "Rocky" Meenaghan (Tourmakeady), pictured at Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta Mhaigh Eo in Páirc Naomh Muire, April 2015.



Left: Do you remember getting a lift to a match in this vehicle? Mattie Ronan's luxury van carried players to games in the 1970s.





The Tourmakeady team that played Westport in the West Mayo Junior Football Championship semi-final at Westport on September 13, 1970. Back: Seán Molloy (selector), Myles O'Malley, Pádraig Feeney, Seán Ó Sé, Martin Lally, Michael Meenaghan, Vincent Heneghan, Phil Staunton, Brian Fallon, Seán Sullivan, Joe Mulrooney (manager). Front: Frank Canavan, Christy Dermody, Michael Power, Pat Naughton, Seán Ó Cróinín, Charlie O'Donnell, Owen Denny, Gerry Flynn. © Photo: Liam Lyons



Action from the West Mayo Junior Football Championship semi-final, Tourmakeady versus Westport, September 1970. Vincent Heneghan (T) gives chase to Michael Gannon (W). © Photo: Liam Lyons ([www.liamlyons.com](http://www.liamlyons.com))



Action from the West Mayo Junior Football Championship semi-final, Tourmakeady versus Westport, September 1970. Pictured are Michael Holland (W), Pat Cox (W), John Quinn (T), Martin Lally (T), and John Reynolds (W).  
© Photo: Liam Lyons (www.liamlyons.com)



The same two clubs in action in the Senior Football Championship on July 21, 2012 in Westport. David Prendergast charges forward as John Heneghan and Brendan Prendergast watch on.  
© Photo: Steve Fleming.



## ***“It all started in Heaney’s field”***

*by Mary Reeves & Seán Heaney*



Heaney's Field pictured in Summer 2013. This was the home of Tourmakeady GAA club from 1965 to 1984.

Many have us have seen John B. Keane's play "The Field" which is based on a mixture of fact and fiction in a rural village. That play comes to mind when we think of our father's contribution to the founding of Tourmakeady GAA club. In September 1965, our father Martin Heaney offered his field to a group of local young men to help to establish a new football club.

Looking back all those years, we now realise that our father's love and appreciation of Gaelic football meant more to him than merely "the field". Gaelic football was of huge national significance to our father as he had a great love of Irish games as opposed to imported ones. He was not in favour of us listening to "Match of the Day" when the broadcasting of English soccer started on our radios in the 1960s !



Martin's pride and joy in the game of Gaelic football was evident at both club and county levels. We remember him speaking about driving with three local men, - Martin Heneghan Mhichilín, Joe Mulrooney RIP, and Tommy Gibbons (John) RIP, - from Tourmakeady to Dublin in 1951 to see Mayo take "Sam" across the Shannon. He spoke proudly about those times, making us aware that "Sam" visited our local village and he lived for the day it might return to his native county. Perhaps the 50th anniversary of our club will be the year that Mayo will bring the Sam Maguire Cup back to Tourmakeady again.

Our father always had great admiration for all the voluntary workers and the dedication and commitment of the players through the years. In the 1970s and '80s, he enjoyed every achievement of Tourmakeady's progression from Junior to Intermediate and finally to Senior. In later years it was with great pride that he spoke of his grand daughter's (Martha Ní Mháille) achievement in winning three All-Ireland medals with the Mayo Senior Ladies football team.

Like many rural listeners in the 1960s and '70s, our father's Sunday afternoon was

spent listening to Mícheál Ó hEithir's radio commentaries on Gaelic football games. He enjoyed talking about football and discussions about "the game" became more animated when the players and supporters were enjoying a pint in the pub beside "the field" after the match !

Cultural patterns started to change in the 1980s and '90s but for our father, Martin Heaney, the game of Gaelic football remained the same. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis. I bpáirc peile na bhFlaitheas go gcstar muid ar a chéile arís.

- Clann Uí Éanaigh



Martin Heaney and Jimmy Coyne with the National Football League Cup won by Mayo in 2001

## “See You on Thursday”

by Owen Denny

I came to Tourmakeady in the 1960s and was involved in setting up the local GAA Club. Football training was normally on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. We were anxious to recruit new members. I was told about a young lad who had great potential but little interest at that stage. I approached him and his family and was received with open arms. We became firm friends. Paddy Walsh was his name and what a player he developed into. His style at corner back was similar to that of the late great Páidí Ó Sé. Paddy

and I travelled together to all our games and to training. We went to Croke Park many times and also to Tuam, Roscommon and other places. On one Tuesday evening coming back from training, Paddy said to me “see you on Thursday and I’ll leave my boots in your car ‘til then”. The following evening, Paddy went fishing in the local river. When he had not returned as darkness fell, the alarm was raised. Word spread quickly and a large crowd gathered. We searched near the river and the local mountain and bog. I was in a group of five along with the late Mick Lally. At first light we resumed searching in a deep hole near the waterfall. We disturbed the water and found Paddy. We were distraught and shocked, the tragedy was just too great to comprehend. We all went back to Paddy’s parents house. His mother asked me and a neighbour to go over the road to his married sister to let her know the sad news. She knew my car and ran out shouting “Owen, what’s wrong?” We took her in our arms and consoled her. Even after all these years, rarely a day passes that I don’t recall that terrible day. I remember with fondness my good friend Paddy Walsh and our happy days playing football and going to matches together. He is on my morning prayer list. May the light of heaven shine upon him. “See you on Thursday and don’t forget your boots”.

*In memory of Patrick Walsh, Cappaghduff who died tragically on June 24, 1970 aged 20 years. Owen Denny, who now resides in Kildare, was secretary of Tourmakeady GAA club at that time.*

### West Mayo Championship 1969

## VITAL WIN FOR TOURMAKEADY

Tourmakeady ... 3-8

Balla ..... 2-8

**A goal from a penalty in the final quarter by Peadar Flynn gave Tourmakeady the laurels in this West Championship tie played at Tourmakeady on Sunday.**

It was a hard-fought game all through and spectators got good value for their money. This was a key game for Tourmakeady as they had to win this to stay in the race for championship honours.

Paddy Walsh, Mylie O'Malley, Sean Cronin, Paddy Naughton and Christy Dermody were the stars of the Tourmakeady side.



# THE GAELTARRA ÉIREANN CUP

Gaeltarra Éireann donated a perpetual cup to Tourmakeady GAA club in 1969, to be played for in an annual football tournament. It was first contested in June 1971 as part of the Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh festivities. Breaffy beat Tourmakeady in a “rip-roaring” final that year. The home side’s best performers were Kevin Melia, Christy Dermody, Tom Dolan, Seán Ó Sé, Seán Ó Cróinín, John Quinn and Charlie O’Donnell. The majority of the Tourmakeady team at that time were Gaeltarra Éireann employees. Gaeltarra Éireann played an immensely important role in the development of Tourmakeady GAA club in its formative years by providing local employment for players and also by sponsoring the annual festival.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh was a big attraction come summer time in Tourmakeady. It started out as a “Seachtain Gaelach” in 1971 but in the years that followed, it expanded to become a bumper-packed festival spanning three weeks of the month of May. Activities included mens and ladies football, soccer and rugby games, cycling races, fishing tournaments, car treasure hunts, juvenile football, schools sports days, Cailín Gaelach, drama, fashion shows, music concerts and dances.

Major folk and traditional bands such as The Chieftains, Planxty, and the Dublin City Ramblers performed at Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh in those years. Very large crowds came from wide and far to attend the Gaeltarra Cup final and the evening dances. Michael John Casey recalls cars parked

along the roads for the best part of a mile leading out of Tourmakeady village. The festival helped Tourmakeady GAA club raise much needed funds and year after year during the 1970s, the treasurer reported an increasingly healthy state of financial affairs at the club’s annual general meetings.

The Gaeltarra Cup was dominated in the early years by Ballinrobe, Ballintubber, Hollymount and Kilmaine, who between them contested all the finals from 1972 to 1979 inclusive. Islandeady shook up the traditional order by winning the tournament in 1980.

In 1981, the programme of activities in Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh ran from May 1st to May 17th with a dance every other night in Tourmakeady Hall from 10:00pm to 1:30am. That year, Pat Naughton had the honour of being the first Tourmakeady captain to lift the Gaeltarra Cup when his team beat Breaffy. The following year, Tourmakeady lost to Hollymount in the final but bounced back to win the competition in 1983, as reported in the *Connaught Telegraph*:

*In a game which produced some tremendous fare, Tourmakeady pulled the game out of the fire in the last ten minutes with two golden goals from Tommy Heneghan and Joe Dolan to bring the cup home for the second time in its history. The goals turned out to be worth £250 each as the Cup was accompanied with a cheque for £500 for club development.*

Tourmakeady retained the Gaeltarra Cup in 1984 by defeating their friendly rivals Hollymount in the final. Mike Connolly, the current Chairman of Mayo GAA County Board, played with Hollymount several times in the Gaeltarra Cup in the 1980s. He has many fond recollections of the competition but one particular memory stands out in his mind:

*"There was one time, Richie Bell was in charge of the Hollymount jerseys. I happened to be in town that day and bought myself a new jumper. People weren't exactly flaithiúlach back then so you wouldn't get yourself a jumper except every once in a while. Anyway, I came straight out to the match in Tourmakeady. But didn't Richie forget to bring the team jerseys! We had to take to the field wearing our ordinary clothes. So there I was playing in my brand new jumper and an awful downpour came about 10 minutes from the end. There was a bad hollow up one side of Heaney's field and I took a bit of a toss, the Tourmakeady man had a firm grip of my lovely new geansaí and he ripped a big hole out of it. But sure it was all a bit of fun, we loved coming to the Tourmakeady festival and we won that tournament a few times".*

In the 1970s, Gaeltarra Éireann won several major export contracts to the UK, USA, Japan and elsewhere and business was booming. But dark clouds were beginning to gather and the first threat to the continuation of the factory came in 1980 when Gaeltarra Éireann moved to rationalise its three plants. On that occasion, community leaders in Tourmakeady and local politicians intervened to rescue the situation. However, the dynamics of changing markets were at play and as demand dwindled for Gaeltarra Éireann products, operations at the Tourmakeady factory gradually slowed and it eventually closed in October 2003. And just as time took its toll on the sponsoring company, so it did also on the football tournament. The Gaeltarra Cup fell away in the 1990s and, except for a brief revival in 2004 and again in 2010, it has not been played for in recent times.

## Tourmakeady clinch Gaeltarra cup in final

Tourmakeady ..... 2-9  
Knockmore ..... 1-9

A huge attendance which turned out in Tourmakeady for the final of the Gaeltarra Cup on Sunday evening went home extremely happy after a splendid game while Tourmakeady supporters in particular had plenty to celebrate with a superb win.

Connaught Telegraph, May 25, 1983



## Gaeltarra Cup Finals

YEAR	WINNERS		RUNNERS-UP	
1971	Breaffy	2-11	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	1-7
1972	Ballinrobe	1-11	Ballintubber	1-4
1973	Ballintubber	1-8	Ballinrobe	2-4
1974	Kilmaine	0-8	Ballintubber	0-5
1975	Ballintubber	5-10	Hollymount	0-7
1976	Hollymount	2-7	Ballinrobe	0-9
1977	Ballintubber	1-17	Kilmaine	3-4
1978	Kilmaine	1-7	Hollymount	1-5
1979	Ballintubber	1-11	Kilmaine	1-5
1980	Islandeedy	2-10	Hollymount	0-7
1981	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	0-8	Breaffy	1-3
1982	Hollymount	1-9	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	1-7
1983	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	2-9	Knockmore	1-9
1984	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	1-7	Hollymount	0-6
1985	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh ?			
1986	Ballintubber			
1987	Balla			
1988	?			
1989	Balla			
1990	Ballintubber	3-12	Kilmeena	2-6
1991	Ballintubber	1-11	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	1-8
1992	Claremorris		Ballintubber	
1993	Claremorris ?			
1994	Claremorris		Ballintubber	
1995	Clonbur	1-12	Burrishoole	1-5
2002	Hollymount		Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	
2004	Ballintubber	4-10	Breaffy	2-13
2010	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh		Headford	

Records are incomplete. The Gaeltarra Cup was discontinued in the late 1990s. It was last played for in August 2010 in a tournament challenge match between Tourmakeady and Headford as part of Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh.





Interior of Gaeltarra Éireann factory in Tourmakeady, 1973. © Photos: Liam Lyons ([www.liamlyons.com](http://www.liamlyons.com))







The Gaeltarra Éireann Cup was first contested in 1971 as part of an annual tournament during Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh. Top picture: Seán Ó Sé presents the Gaeltarra Éireann Cup to Tourmakeady captain, Mattie Heneghan, after his team defeated Knockmore in the final of the tournament in 1983. Bottom picture: Mattie presents the same cup to Tourmakeady captain of 2010, Kevin Dolan, after they beat Headford in a tournament game at the club's August Bank Holiday festival.



Gaeltarra Cup 1979.  
Michael John Casey and Fr. Noel Forde  
present the cup to  
Ballintubber captain  
Jackie Heneghan.



Gaeltarra Cup 1990.  
Ballintubber captain  
John Horan, now a  
member of  
Tourmakeady GAA  
club (current U-14  
coach) accepts the  
cup from John Callan  
(centre). Club PRO  
Michael John Casey  
is on the left.

## ***Recollections of the Gaeltarra Éireann Tournament***

*by Liam Horan, Ballinrobe*

The old rigid north, south, east and west structures in Mayo generated some great rivalries – but they created chasms too. In Ballinrobe, you went to primary school knowing everything about GortJordan National School, Claremorris Boy's National School, Kilmaine National School (Brendan Hughes was a fully-grown man at eleven, I swear) and the likes. They competed in the South Mayo National Schools championship.

We knew who kicked with the left. We knew who wore his socks up. We knew the girls you daren't mark because the only reason a girl was on the team was because she was deadly: and, as I have previously explained in some public musings on the matter, marking her was a fate worse than not playing at all.

But Tourmakeady, Srah, Coill a' tSídheáin? Football-wise, they occupied a different universe. On a clear day, you can see Tourmakeady from Ballinrobe; but for any young footballer growing up in either place, it was like looking into the abyss. We were south. They were west.

The lines of demarcation were resolutely drawn. What did we think of them? We didn't think of them. And I'm sure the non-feeling was mutual. Presumably Tourmakeady had their own critical business to be getting on with in distant points throughout west Mayo; and, if they hadn't, it mattered not a jot to us because they were simply off our radar.

My introduction to Tourmakeady football came via a more mature portal: the Gaeltarra Éireann tournament. My father Billy, who has been writing about football and other local matters in the local papers since the early 1950s, which is only 65 years or so, was a great man for the Gaeltarra Éireann tournament.

Childhood memories may play tricks, but it always seemed to be slotted in around other fixtures. Ballinrobe might play in the intermediate championship against Knockmore on Sunday afternoon, and that evening – yes, that very evening – they'd tear into Tourmak or "Tubber or, bizarrely, brilliantly, Knockmore again in the Gaeltarra Éireann tournament. The term burn-out was coined in Tourmakeady.

Some random facts about the Gaeltarra Éireann tournament:

1. There were always midges, pronounced "midgets".
2. They were vicious, pronounced "those effin midgets are effin vicious".
3. The heather was always in bloom, if that is the correct technical term.
4. Every team had a player with a comb-over – nowadays, it is GAA-chic to grow a beard, but in the mid-1970s the comb-over was the *marque de la mode*. It was a bye-law of the Ballintubber club that every line of the field must feature a player with a comb-over, the



equivalent of a gender quota to preserve the less hirsute among us. They had one player who could use his comb-over as a weapon of mass destruction. It was so extravagant he could even use it to flag points, and regularly did, particularly dodgy ones.

5. The term WMD was coined in Tourmakeady.
6. The term gender quota was coined in Tourmakeady.
7. There was always a fight. You'd be cranky too if you'd lost in the championship earlier in the day. To the team you were playing in the evening.
8. It was always sunny.
9. Every year a county player – in Ballinrobe's case it would be Tommy O'Malley – would come straight from the county final to play. He wouldn't even have togged in.
10. At least one carload of players wouldn't make it there. And you couldn't text Harrington's or Manny Heveran's to tell them to get a move on. And they wouldn't have played in the Connacht final at all that day. They mightn't even have gone to it.

I don't know when the Gaeltarra tournament fizzled out. Tournaments have gone by the wayside, by and large – even the almost famous Exiles Cup had to accept its fate a few years back. They prospered at a time when the county league wasn't taken as seriously as it is now, and the void no longer exists.

But they were great while they lasted. Stuff got sorted. Stuff that couldn't be sorted in the

championship: old spleens, new spleens, and when I say "spleen" I might not be talking in a merely metaphorical sense.

Refereeing finished at the gate on the way out: the notebook got thrown in the dash of the car. There was no need to be bothering the county board with reports of who walked. Billy Horan wasn't on Twitter. Angelina wasn't ringing for the details.

In reality, it was a perfect societal solution: a place where pots could boil over without any long-term repercussions. Pent-up anger got un-pented: and there'd be tea and sandwiches afterwards and all would be well with the world again. You'd return your comb-over to its parking position and get ready for the week ahead.

*Liam Horan is an officer of Ballinrobe GAA Club, as is his father Billy who is a native of Partry. His grandfather, Joe Horan, was the first man from the parish of Ballyovey to play inter-county football for Mayo.*

*Liam and fellow writer John Corless are currently touring their Gaelic games-themed comedy show "The Pull" to GAA venues all over Ireland. Clubs can stage the play in their locality as a fund-raiser.*

*See [www.halfsolid.com](http://www.halfsolid.com) or contact Liam on 087-9185867.*



# IN PURSUIT OF VICTORY: 1971 - 1978

At the 1971 AGM, the club secretary remarked that although no major victories were achieved on the field of play, it was nevertheless “a year of progress”. Eight clubs – Kilmaine, Shrule, Ballintubber, Clonbur, Westport, Castlebar, Breaffy, and Tourmakeady – competed in the first ever Gaeltarra Cup tournament, in which hosts Tourmakeady narrowly lost to Breaffy in the final. A very enjoyable trip was made to the Comórtas Peile in Baile Bhúirne. The West Mayo Junior Championship began with a resounding victory over Ballintubber (2-14 to 0-4) followed by a win over Louisburgh, but from then on the results went against Tourmakeady. 1971 was significant in another important regard, because that was the year that the club decided to break away from the “St. Patrick’s” underage amalgamation (Tourmakeady / Ballintubber / Balla) and affiliated its own teams at Minor, U-16 and U-14 level.

Looking forward to the 1972 season, Seán O Sé urged his team to intensify their efforts. The trainer was Kevin Melia, a former Wicklow inter-county footballer who later also played for Mayo. He was a high achiever on and off the pitch and strove hard for success. Of all the divisions, the West was arguably the most difficult to come through but in 1972 the exertions of the Tourmakeady players were rewarded when they qualified for the West Mayo final.

Their opponents were Louisburgh, a club they had beaten several times in previous seasons. Louisburgh were favourites on account of having lost the final the year before, but at half-time they

led Tourmakeady by just a single point, courtesy of a rather fortuitous goal. A quick goal immediately after half-time gave Louisburgh an injection of confidence and when they scored another a few minutes later, the game ran away from Tourmakeady. The final score was Louisburgh 3-8, Tourmakeady 0-7.

Tourmakeady again participated in Comórtas Peile in 1972 in An Daingean. Mick Lally played in goals for Tourmakeady in that tournament and saved a penalty from Paidí Ó Sé. He was there at the behest of Tomás Ó Máille, who had recruited a talented group of performers to represent the club in the Cabaret competition. The Tourmakeady entry was called “Mise Raftaire an File” and the adjudicators awarded it joint first place along with the entry from Cúil Aodha. This was the first trophy that Tourmakeady GAA club had ever won. Mick Lally was later to say that the cup he won with his native Tourmakeady in 1972 meant more to him than any of the awards he won in his acting career.

For Comórtas ’73, Tourmakeady obtained permission to enter an amalgamated Gaeltacht Mhaigh Eo team. It included eight Tourmakeady players and was bolstered by others from Kiltane, Ballinrobe and Ballintubber, including Mayo senior footballers Johnny Carey (All-Star 1971), Ger Feeney, and Tommy O’Malley. This team, captained by Tourmakeady’s Seán Ó Sé, beat Baile Bhúirne in the semi-final and Gaoth Dobhair in the final after extra time.

The tradition then was that the two Comórtas



finalists would play each other again in the Gael Linn Tournament as a curtain raiser to the inter-county Oireachtas Tournament. And so the Maigh Eo team, this time with 11 Tourmakeady players on the starting 15, played Gaoth Dobhair on Sunday October 21st in Croke Park. “That was my first time in Croke Park,” remembers Michael John Casey. “We stayed in a hotel somewhere near the airport, we were making a bit of a commotion and the manager nearly showed us the door, but then he heard where we were from and all was forgiven, sure he was a Mayo man himself”. If there had been any doubt about the supremacy of the

Tourmakeady players, it was laid to rest when they beat Gaoth Dobhair for the second time on that day in Croke Park to capture the Gael Linn Trophy.

Tourmakeady lost several players in 1973. In March, founder member Seán Ó Cróinín moved back to Cork. A few weeks later, goalkeeper Pat Gibbons emigrated to Chicago. In June, Peadar Flynn broke his leg. That same month, Kevin Melia picked up an injury which ruled him out for the remainder of the season; towards the end of the year, he left Tourmakeady and transferred back to his native county Wicklow.



The Tourmakeady / Erris amalgamation that won the All-Ireland Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta in An Cheathrú Rua in 1973. Back: Pat Naughton, Johnny Carey (Kiltane), Paddy Corrigan (Kiltane), Tommy Heneghan, Mick Burke, Vincent Hennelly, Brendan Heneghan (Kiltane), Richie Cosgrove (Kiltane), Gearóid Mulrooney, Martin Carey (Kiltane). Front: Brian Fallon, Tom Ronan, Gerry O'Malley (Ballinrobe), Kevin Dermody, Charlie O'Donnell, Seán Ó Sé, Joe Brown, Ger Feeney (Ballintubber), Tommy O'Malley (Ballinrobe), Michael Flannery (Ballinrobe), Billy Hennelly.

Between 1974 and 1976, Tourmakeady reached the West Mayo semi-finals three years in a row but lost all three. In these years, the club regularly participated in tournaments such as the Horan Cup (Ballintubber), Nally Cup (Mayo Abbey), Staunton Cup (Hollymount), Cavanagh Cup (Ballinrobe), Flanagan Cup (Kilmaine), Gaeltarra

Cup (Tourmakeady), and others. On more than one occasion, it was discussed at club meetings if participation in these local tournaments or in the Comórtas was affecting championship preparations. Invariably, the feeling of members was that continued involvement in the Comórtas was important from a social and cultural perspective, but that participation in tournaments should be judiciously restricted.

In July 1976, Tourmakeady beat the host club Hollymount in the Staunton Cup final. The following year, Tourmakeady won the Cavanagh Cup by defeating Ballinrobe. At the AGM on December 7th 1977, John Callan was appointed team trainer. He was a man who believed in discipline and hard work. A new régime of winter training was instigated to build up stamina and fitness. Just six months into his role, on May 21st 1978, John Callan's team delivered the club's first victory in an official competition by winning the West Mayo League final (Kelly Cup) on a score line of Tourmakeady 2-8, Breaffy 1-7.

August 1978 saw Tourmakeady back again in the West Mayo semi-final for the sixth time in nine seasons. On this occasion, they fell narrowly to Burrishoole in controversial circumstances. The club's subsequent appeal was rejected. The following day, Tourmakeady lost the Horan Cup final replay to Islandeady. The year ended on a high note with the winning of the Nally Cup tournament in Mayo Abbey on November 5th 1978. That was to set the tone for the remarkable year ahead in 1979.



Gaeltarra Éireann 7-a-side team 1970s.  
Back: Owen Cronin, Seán Ó Sé, Jimmy Gibbons, Michael Hennelly. Front: Charlie O'Donnell, John Quinn, Vincent Hennelly.





West Mayo Junior Football Finalists 1972.

Back: Kevin Melia, Charlie O'Donnell, Myles O'Malley, Mick Burke, Tommy Heneghan,  
John Quinn, Joe Brown, Seán Ó Sé.

Front: Pat Naughton, Michael Meeneghan, Pat Gibbons, Martin O'Malley,  
Kevin Dermody, Seán Ó Cróinín, Vincent Hennelly





Action from West Mayo Junior Football Championship semi-final 1972, Tourmakeady v Islandeady. Charlie O'Donnell, John Fitzgerald (No. 6), Tom Dever? (No. 13), Michael O'Donnell (No. 4), Tom Cadden (No. 3), Mick Burke (No. 14), Enda Kenny. © Photo: Liam Lyons ([www.liamlyons.com](http://www.liamlyons.com))

A very similar photograph taken 32 years later. This one is from the Kelly Cup Final in April 2004, Tourmakeady v Kilmeena (in changed amber strip). John Heneghan and David Prendergast (No. 3) have things under control. © Photo: John Moylette.





Action from West Mayo Junior Football Championship semi-final 1972, Tourmakeady v Islandeady. Tommy Heneghan gets his kick away as Tom Cadden and Michael O'Donnell close in.  
© Photo: Liam Lyons (www.liamlyons.com)



*"That great Kerry man Seán Ó Sé was by far the best full back I ever played behind"* (Pat Gibbons).

Goalmouth action from West Mayo Junior Football Championship Final between Tourmakeady and Louisburgh at Westport, August 27, 1972.

From left, the Tourmakeady players are John Quinn, Seán Ó Sé (in air), Pat Gibbons (goalkeeper) and Vincent Hennelly (No. 4).

© Photo: Liam Lyons





Action from West Mayo Junior Football Championship Final 1972, Tourmakeady v Louisburgh. From left, Tourmakeady players are Joe Brown (hidden), Martin O'Malley, Vincent Hennelly, Seán Ó Cróinín and Seán Ó Sé. © Photo: Liam Lyons.

West Mayo Junior semi-final, MacHale Park, September 7, 1975. Back: Pádraig Burke, David Middleton, Gearóid Mulrooney, Martin O'Malley, Mick Burke, Billy Hennelly, Tom Burke, Adrian Gavin, Vincent Hennelly, Seán Ó Sé, Mickey Hennelly. Front: Gearóid Timoney, Brian Fallon, Peadar Flynn, Tommy Heneghan (capt.), Jimmy Gibbons, Paddy Meenaghan, Joe Brown, Frank Lally, Jimmy Heneghan, Peter Heveran, Pat Burke.





## OLD SPICE AND MEMORIES OF HEANEY'S FIELD

by Adrian Gavin



Four Tourmakeady players of the 1970s came together recently in Westport.  
From left: Peadar Flynn, Mick Burke, Martin O'Malley, Adrian Gavin.

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Peadar, Mick, Martin and I met for a cup of coffee in Westport a few weeks ago (May 2015). The four of us played football for 'Tourmak' in the '70s. There was no pre-ordained script, just a willingness to share memories of something we did together over forty years ago.

There was no shortage of talk or laughs. The stories came quickly. It was as if it was yesterday. *'Haeney's field'* (Heaney's field) with its hills and hollows, muddy patch just inside the gate, and randomly dotted cow pats, quickly became the source of warm memories. I could feel the pride these guys had when running across the road from Treanlaur school, wearing a slightly tattered, torn, and sometimes smelly, black and white jersey with its number missing. In those days, jerseys had to

last. Unfortunately, the opposition didn't agree!

Mick remembers fellows bouncing off him as he burst through the centre. Martin recalls the conditions for players during the '70s as being "Spartan", but this didn't seem to matter too much to the players. We were delighted just to play. It was quickly pointed out that Peadar developed his trademark sidestep out of the necessity to avoid the cow pats! A quick wash in the stream beside the school after the game, a dash of *Old Spice* on the important places, and you were ready for the post-mortem in Haeney's pub. I have no memory of anyone using anti-perspirant. Mind you, the smell from the boot of your car the next morning was not like *Old Spice*. I remember the stink well. We chatted about the great local players of our

time and the positive impact the lads in the factory had on the development of the game locally. The four of us had gone to different boarding schools in Galway, – St. Mary's, St. Enda's and St. Jarlath's. We appreciated that for local Tourmak' lads, the hay still had to be saved and the turf cut before training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. I sensed that we were less tied to these chores. Like Peadar's acquired side step, other players were remembered for their specific skills. We agreed that blocking and high fielding were highly developed and valued as skills at the time. The recent practice of "sledging", or insulting your marker on a personal basis during the game, didn't cross our minds, or maybe it did. It was not a feature though, but we were no saints either. The practice though seems at odds with the sporting culture we experienced.

We also chatted about the craic we had with the opposition after the matches. We got to know many players from visiting clubs as they played in our Gaeltarra Cup tournament and we returned to play in their tournaments in Ballintubber, Kilmaine, Ballinrobe and Headford. We agreed that Tourmak' offered great hospitality to visiting teams. This may become a great local resource again when we host the finals of Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta in 2017. We took a photograph of the four of us together before we parted. Interestingly, none of us live in Tourmakeady now but we have settled not so far away. Our fond memories of the hills and hollows in *Haeney's field*, of the cow pats and smells from the boot of the car, are thankfully never far away however. They still bring smiles to our faces today of a wonderful time shared.



1976 West Mayo Junior Semi-Finalists. Back: Kevin O'Toole, Vincent Hennelly, Pat Burke, Tommy Heneghan, Billy Hennelly, Tom Burke, Gearid Mulrooney, Martin O'Malley, Mick Burke, Adrian Gavin, David Middleton. Front: Pat Flynn, Eugene Mulrooney, Joe Brown, Jimmy Heneghan, Seán Ó Sé, Frank Lally, Peter Gibbons, Michael Hennelly, Owen Heneghan, Peter Heveran.



## A TRIBUTE TO JOHN CALLAN (1912 – 2004)

*by Patricia Lally*

John Callan was a unique man in many ways. He was a confident man with a strong sense of self and a commanding presence; his strong northern accent was one of his distinctive features. John's passion in life was Gaelic football and the GAA. His interest captured at an early age, John played club and county football at underage level with his native Monaghan. However, John's interest was not confined to his home county. He followed the inter-county scene with interest and longed for the opportunity to see games in Croke Park. That

interest never faded. John attended over sixty All-Ireland finals in Croke Park and even cycled from Monaghan to Dublin and back in his younger days to attend games. John often spoke of being in Croke Park for "Sam Maguire's first game" (1928) and was also there to see the new Cup being presented to Meath in 1988.

John lived and worked in London for many years and was involved with Gaelic football teams throughout that time. It was in England that he met his wife, Kate (Catherine) Lally, a native of Tourmakeady. In the summer of 1977 they returned to her native home to retire.

John immediately got involved with Tourmakeady GAA Club and took up the post of trainer in 1978, having been appointed at the club's AGM on December 7th 1977. Tourmakeady had reached the latter stages of the West Mayo Junior Championships on a number of occasions in the 1970s but failed to make the ultimate breakthrough. John firmly believed in dedication and the will to win. He was strict and expected some sacrifices from the players, and they responded with respect and dedication. He introduced a tough training regime, including sessions in Tourmakeady Hall during the winter months. It was not long before the fortunes of the club changed. Just six months after his appointment, the club went on to win its first trophy by beating Breaffy in the Kelly Cup (West Mayo League) on May 21st 1978 in Clogher. Later that season, Tourmakeady won the Nally Cup Tournament when they defeated host club Mayo



Club President John Callan at the opening of Ardán na nDeoraí on May 6, 2001, pictured with the National Football League Cup won by Mayo.

Gaels on November 5th 1978. The club also reached the West Mayo Junior Championship semi-finals again that year.

The initial successes of 1978 created the impetus for even greater success for the men's club in 1979, which was a glorious year in the history of the club. The club took home sixteen trophies in all that year, including the West Mayo Junior title. However, it was the County Junior title that took pride of place. This was a magnificent success for a small rural club. The credit for the team's success that year went to John Callan.

Not content with the success of the men's club, John set about forming a ladies club. He established Tourmakeady Ladies GAA Club in October 1978. With a panel of 26, John set his hopes on winning the Mayo Ladies Football Championship. Ladies county competitions were discontinued in the late 1970s but when the Ladies County Board was revived in 1981, Tourmakeady formally affiliated and sure enough they won the Senior championship in 1982.

John stepped down as trainer in 1980 and was elected President of the club at the AGM that December. He served a term of one year at that time. A few years later in 1987, he was given the position of Honorary President of the club, a position he held until his death in 2004.

John always had a great affinity with his adopted club Tourmakeady, who sported the same black and white colours as his native club, Magheracloone in County Monaghan. He also supported his wife's home county of Mayo with the same enthusiasm as his native Monaghan.

John was delighted with my own involvement in Tourmakeady Ladies GAA Club and would always



Patricia Lally, a grandniece of John Callan, was an outstanding player on the Tourmakeady Ladies team that won the 2010 County Championship



John Callan at home in Tourmakeady

enquire of our successes or otherwise on the field of play. He was interested to know what teams were competing and my views on the standard of football in the county. John was particularly impressed with the success of the Mayo Ladies GAA team from 1999-2003 and would invariably compare their successes to the performance of the men's side.

John loved the GAA and he brought it with him everywhere he went. No conversation was complete without reference to it at some point. John traveled to games every weekend, even in his



latter years, and enjoyed the atmosphere and excitement. He was always in good form but nothing brought out his personality more than the week leading into a big game.

John was a friend of Seán Boylan, the former Meath manager, and former players, Colm O'Rourke and Mick Lyons. John and Kate would regularly travel to Meath, the adopted home of Kate's sister, Mary Duffy, and her husband Paddy. John and Paddy would attend the Meath encounters and there was always great rivalry between the pair. John enjoyed the game no matter who was playing, but particularly enjoyed it when he had some connection with the team. John looked forward to his trips to Meath and his good

humour would last for days after the game, whatever the outcome.

John and Kate enjoyed many years of happiness in Tourmakeady with their family, friends and neighbours, and Tourmakeady GAA Club was a special part of that. A special word of thanks to those who brought John to watch Tourmakeady play in his latter years.

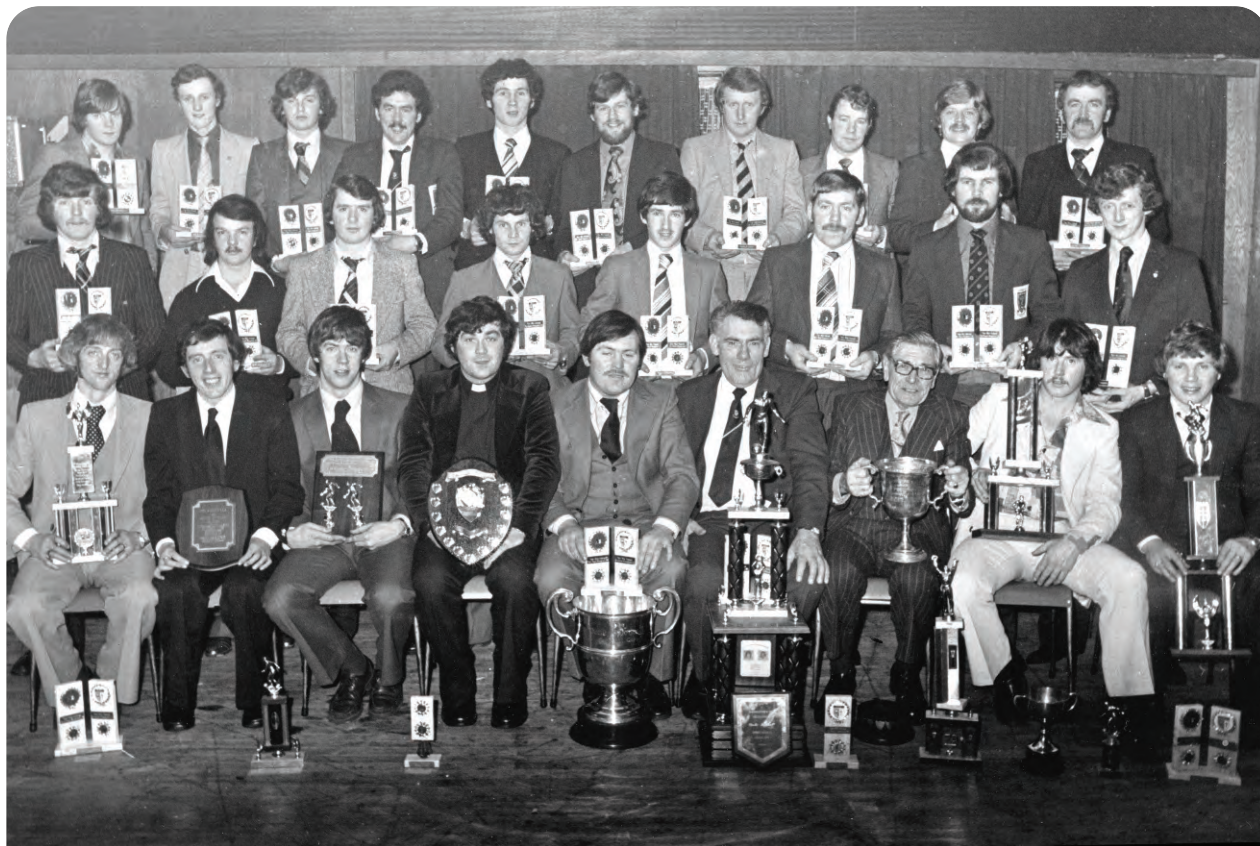
A club survives and thrives on the passion of those involved. I hope Tourmakeady GAA Club encounters many more characters such as John who leave a positive mark behind.

Continued success into the future.



"Callan's Team", West Mayo Junior Finalists 1979. Back: John Callan (Trainer), David Middleton, Vincent Hennelly, Noel Forde, Mattie Heneghan, Kevin O'Toole, Michael Morrin, Adrian Gavin, Michael Hennelly, Mickey Hennelly, Jim Callaghan (Selector). Front: Tommy Heneghan, Paddy Meeneghan, Peter Heveran, Owen Heneghan, Willie Feeley (capt.), Frank Lally, Jimmy Heneghan, Gearóid Timoney, Tom Burke. Missing: Billy Hennelly, Pat Naughton, Kevin Dermody, Gearóid Mulrooney, Eugene Mulrooney.

### 1979: A YEAR TO REMEMBER



Tourmakeady GAA Club Victory Dance, January 1980. Back: Joe Gavin, Eugene Mulrooney, Michael Morrin, Gearóid Timoney, Mattie Heneghan, Vincent Hennelly, Pat Naughton, Seán Ó Sé, Michael Hennelly, Mickey Hennelly. Middle: David Middleton, Paddy Meenaghan, Frank Lally, Jimmy Heneghan, Peter Heveran, Billy Hennelly, Tommy Heneghan, Gearóid Mulrooney. Front: Michael Meenaghan, Michael John Casey, Kevin O'Toole, Noel Forde, Willie Feeley, Jim Callaghan, John Callan, Kevin Dermody, Owen Heneghan. © Photo: Frank Dolan.

#### ***Tourmakeady – The Club of 1979***

1979 will not be forgotten by members of one West Mayo G.A.A. Club. The year has been the most successful in the club's history. And at the annual convention of the West Mayo G.A.A. Board

last week in Westport, glowing tributes were paid and congratulations extended to the club members. For Tourmakeady, which was singled out for praise by the officers of West Mayo GAA and each delegate from the other clubs in the West



Division, 1979 has been the greatest year ever. Everything the Tourmakeady Club put their hand to during 1979 “turned up gold” and the annual convention was no exception. For nine years, Tommie Lyons (Breaffy) has filled the Chair on the Board but last week Tommie had to stand down, after a contest, in favour of Tourmakeady’s own Chairman, Rev. Noel Forde.

But that was just one of the successes of the Tourmakeady Club in 1979. The successes really started late last year (1978) with the winning of the Nally Cup at the Mayo Abbey Tournament. The start of '79 saw the planning of the club’s American trip with the holding of card games, dances, walks, raffle, etc.



Jimmy Heneghan in action against Ardnaree’s Gerry O’Mahoney in the 1979 Junior County Final.

January also saw the set dancers in Junior Scór go to the All-Ireland finals to be just beaten by just one point by a Waterford club. In the Senior Scór a few weeks later, the club won no less than four West Mayo titles.

Then saw the planning and organising of Féile Thuair Mhic Éadaigh in May which proved one of the most successful festivals to date. In the “Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta” in June, Tourmakeady represented the area and reached the national finals where they were defeated by Gleann Cholm Cille (Donegal) by the narrowest of margins. But the club didn’t come home empty handed - their dancers won the competition during that week-end. And from August 6th to

27th the club toured the U.S. followed, on their return, by the winning of the West Mayo Junior final and the West Mayo Under-16 final.

As the out-going Secretary of the West Board put it: “Last year’s runners-up finally made the big break through, defeating Achill in the final. They then went on to take the County title and so climaxed a memorable year for this relatively new club.”

*Based on an article from the ‘Mayo News’ January 5, 1980.*

## 1979: A Year to Remember

### CNIOTAIL GAELTARRA TEORANTA

a bhronn  
Corn Gaeltarra

le haghaidh  
FEILE TUAR MHC EADAIGH

John McBride's G.F.C.  
Chicago

Hosts of  
Tourmakeady American Tour  
1979

Best Wishes to Tourmakeady  
on September 9

C.L.C.C.

### WEST MAYO JUNIOR FOOTBALL FINAL

### Achill v. Tourmakeady

4 p.m. Referee—W. Kelly

### U-16B FINAL

### Tourmakeady v. Parke

2.30 p.m. Referee—B. Morahan

in

McHALE PARK, CASTLEBAR

on

Sunday, 9th September

Printed by 'Mayo News', Westport

### ACHILL JUNIOR TEAM

1	Seán Ward	3	Tom Cafferkey	4	Finian O'Malley
2	Denis Gallagher	5	Pascal Weir	6	Michael Gieley
7	Joe Fadian	8	Francis Sweeney	9	Tony Lavelle
10	Kieran O'Malley	11	Brendan Keane	12	Denis Fadian
13	Paddy Scanlon	14	Pádraig McHugh	15	Gerry Hassett

SUBS: Thomas McNamara (16), Gerry McGinty (17), Pat Burke (18), Owen V. Gallagher (19), Paddy Kilbane (20), Patrick M. Gallagher (21).

### TOURMAKEADY JUNIOR TEAM

1	G. Mulrooney	3	V. Hennelly	4	B. Hennelly
2	L. Forde	5	P. Naughton	6	J. Heneghan
7	F. Lally	8	T. Heneghan	9	M. Heneghan
10	D. Middleton	11	K. Dermody	12	A. Gavin
13	P. Meenaghan	14	W. Feeley	15	O. Heneghan

SUBS: K. O'Toole (16), M. Hennelly (17), T. Burke (18), S. Ó Sé (19), J. Gavin (20), G. Timoney (21), M. Morrin (22), P. Heveran (23), M. Hennelly (24), E. Mulrooney (25).

### PARKE U-16 TEAM

1	M. Devaney	3	M. McLoughlin	4	J. Mayoek
2	Paul Reilly	5	P. Tonra	6	J. Jennings
7	S. Flynn	8	Pádraig Reilly	9	J. Conroy (Capt.)
10	M. Keaveney	11	M. Barrett	12	M. Mellale
13	E. Clarke	14	K. Flanagan	15	P. Mellale

SUBS: P. Jennings (16), M. Moran (17), M. Joyce (18), T. Lawless (19).

### TOURMAKEADY U-16 TEAM

1	W. Barker	3	T. Mulloy	4	P. Morrin
2	M. Harrington	5	D. Harrington	6	M. O'Malley
7	K. Lally	8	B. Gibbons	9	J. Burke
10	M. Mulloy	11	F. Lydon	12	J. Harrington
13	T. Gavin	14	M. Lydon	15	J. Mulrooney

SUBS: J. Dolan (16), A. Barnacle (17), C. Lally (18), M. Horan (19), D. Derrig (20).

## 1979 West Mayo Finals Match Programme



U-16 West Mayo Champions 1979. Back: John O'Malley, Martin Harrington, Gerard Burke, Seán Lydon, Willie Barker, Tomás Molloy, Dennis Harrington, Pádraig Morrin, Michael O'Malley, Danny Derrig, Willie Feeley. Front: Denis Harrington, Sr., Anthony Barnicle, Joe Lally, John Mulrooney, Mícheál Molloy, Brian Gibbons (capt.), John Harrington, Martin Lydon, Tomás Gavin, Joe Dolan, Michael Horan.





Tourmakeady captain Willie Feeley leads his team on to the field for the County Junior Football Final, MacHale Park, Castlebar, November 4, 1979. © Photo: Frank Dolan.

## Mayo Junior Football Championship Final 1979

# TOURMAKEADY TRIUMPH

Tourmakeady 1-5    Ardnaree 1-2

Tourmakeady had to fight two battles to win their first ever Mayo junior football title. The first was against Ardnaree. The second against the atrocious weather conditions at MacHale Park, Castlebar. They won both in convincing style in a county final which was threatened by downpours. In the end both sides overcame the elements to

serve up some memorable football on a day when everything but good football was expected.

For the Gaeltacht club it marked the end of a long struggle for recognition. After this performance they richly deserve any recognition coming their way for they displayed a maturity of character and stamina which outranked their

adversaries by the final gap of three points.

Strength was once again the major asset of the Tourmakeady lads. However for the opening fifteen minutes of the game Ardnaree left the West Mayo lads in a complete tizzy. A Paul Forde free after three minutes and a goal by Joe Timoney before the 5th minute had the Tourmakeady men wondering had they come to the right pitch. But they recovered from that disastrous start to strike back in the 10th minute with a point and in the 15th minute with a sweet goal after a brilliant movement downfield.

Ardnaree had the advantage of the breeze and lashing rain in the opening half. Ardnaree sharpshooter Paul Forde opened the scoring with a free and before Tourmakeady could settle at all a low ball came to Joe Timoney who deceived the 'keeper and knocked the ball into the net on the ground.

Ardnaree had certainly got off to a flying start. Tourmakeady's persistence in passing the ball even in defence was getting them into continual difficulties. Ardnaree adopted the more direct approach with a kick first and pass later attitude.

The Ardnaree defence was, as expected, as tight as ever with Benny Lynch, Eamon Campbell and Gerry Casey forming an impenetrable barrier. That barrier was finally broken by David Middleton in the 10th minute when he tapped over a nice point to open Tourmakeady's account. And then came that brilliant movement which resulted in the Tourmakeady goal. Ironically it was



from a series of shortpassing movements which led up to the goal and perhaps Tourmakeady's insistence on the passing brought them dividends in the end.

The movement started at the back with Billy Hennelly. Eugene Mulrooney combined with Adrian Gavin who opened up space for David Middleton. Middleton rattled the back of the net with a superb shot from the edge of the square. It was the tonic which Tourmakeady needed very badly and with the teams now on level terms all was set for a scintillating game. Paul Forde restored the lead for Ardnaree in the 20th minute with a superb point to leave the half time score 1-1 to 1-2.

The breeze in the second half had died down considerably but the rain persisted. Tourmakeady's switching of Kevin Dermody to midfield in the second half in place of Matt Heneghan, who moved to Dermody's right half forward position,



was a decisive move as the talented Tourmakeady player worked unceasingly for the entire period of the second half.

Tourmakeady started the second half in devastating form and Eugene Mulrooney had the ball between the posts to level matters after only one minute. But Ardnaree were in hot pursuit and for a five-minute period they bombarded the Tourmakeady defence. Tourmakeady's half back line and particularly Frank Lally and Pat Naughton gave a powerful display and took the brunt of the Ardnaree attack. Then fourteen minutes into the half Tourmakeady took the lead for the first time in the game when David



Middleton knocked over a fine point. Tourmakeady were now beginning to play with the confidence that many hard-won battles had instilled in them. They began to move into attack

with greater ease and opened up Ardnaree's defence to create the necessary space for the vital chances.

With Dermody the powerhouse at-midfield and almost everywhere else, the time was right to hit Ardnaree. In the 20th minute Tom Heneghan, who was also playing splendidly in the middle of the park, scored a vital point to extend the Tourmakeady lead to two points. Ardnaree immediately sensed the danger and tried desperately to cut back the arrears. But the Tourmakeady defence was once again unyielding. Man to man they faced the Ardnaree firing lines and turned away everything which came their way.

The Hennellys, big and strong, cleared the decks so many times while Noel Forde made some brilliant interceptions in those remaining minutes.

Ardnaree did score a goal and a point which would have won the game but referee Jim Walsh disallowed both for square infringements. Six minutes from the end Kevin Dermody tapped over a fourteen yards free to widen the gap to three points. It was the eventual gap for although Ardnaree fought bravely until the end their strength was being sapped by the winners' defence which seemed to absorb everything including the rain.

Tourmakeady can no doubt look back on the year with satisfaction. An American trip and a county junior title are no small deeds and they deserve all the credit due to them. The team has finally made it. Despite an attempt in '72 which failed in the West final, they have come back stronger and wiser. In

## 1979: A Year to Remember

defence Gearoid Mulrooney had a splendid game. The full back line of Noel Forde, Vincent Hennelly and Billy Hennelly were excellent. The half back line was particularly impressive with Frank Lally, Pat Naughton and Jim Heneghan giving of their very best. Tom Heneghan and his new partner Kevin Dermody were superb at midfield. The winners' half forward line of David Middleton, Adrian Gavin and Matt Heneghan had good games while Eugene Mulrooney and Willie Feeley also played well.

TOURMAKEADY: G. Mulrooney, N. Forde, V. Hennelly, B. Hennelly, F. Lally, P. Naughton, J. Heneghan, T. Heneghan (0-1), M. Heneghan, D. Middleton (1-2), K. Dermody (0-1), A. Gavin, P.

Meenaghan, W. Feeley (capt.), E. Mulrooney (0-1). Subs: J. Gavin (for M. Heneghan), O. Heneghan (for P. Meenaghan).

ARDNAREE: S. Langan, J. O'Malley, P. O'Donnell, N. Dodd, G. Casey, E. Campbell, B. Lynch, P. Corcoran, D. Flynn, G. O'Mahony, E. Ralph, J. Duffy, P. Forde (0-2), P.J. Gilmartin, J. Timoney (1-0). Subs: G. Munnelly (for Campbell), J. Murray (for Duffy).

Ref. J. Walsh (Carramore).

*Based on an article by John Melvin in the 'Connaught Telegraph', November 7, 1979*



Mrs. Catherine Maguire presenting the Pete McDonnell Cup to the Tourmakeady caption, Willie Feeley.  
© Photo: Frank Dolan.





A relaxed-looking Tourmakeady team before the County Junior Football Championship Semi-final against Glencorrib in MacHale Park, Castlebar, October 14, 1979. Standing: Kevin O'Toole, Tommy Heneghan, Pat Naughton, Mattie Heneghan, Gearóid Mulrooney, Billy Hennelly, Noel Forde, Vincent Hennelly, Tom Burke, David Midleton. Kneeling: Adrian Gavin, Paddy Meeneghan, Frank Lally, Owen Heneghan, Willie Feeley, Kevin Dermody, Eugene Mulrooney, Jimmy Heneghan, Joe Gavin. Sitting: Peter Heveran, Michael Hennelly, Michael Morrin, Phil Marree. Missing: Mickey Hennelly. © Photo: Frank Dolan.

### CHICAGO, HERE WE COME !



Aidan Heavey, Manager of AIB Ballinrobe, making a presentation of the Tourmakeady GAA American Tour Brochure to club chairperson Fr. Noel Forde at the Valkenburg Hotel, Ballinrobe in July 1979. The Tourmakeady team are dressed in their tour uniform. Back: Tommy Heneghan, Mickey Hennelly, Gearóid Timoney, Noel Forde, Aidan Heavey (AIB), Michael Hennelly, Mattie Heneghan, Seán Feeney. Front: Michael John Casey, Kevin O'Toole, Willie Feeley, Vincent Hennelly, Owen Heneghan, Jim Callaghan. Kneeling: Frank Lally, Adrian Gavin. © Photo: Liam Lyons.

There was great excitement in December 1978 when news spread that Tourmakeady GAA club had received an invitation from John McBride's GFC Chicago to travel to America. Fundraising efforts to finance the trip gathered steam over the following months and included dances, corporate sponsorship, and a monster raffle for which the

first prize was a Connemara pony. The tour committee was headed by club chairman, Noel Forde, and also included Kevin O'Toole, Vincent Hennelly, Willie Feeley, Denis Harrington and Michael Hennelly. In Chicago, Michael Maloney, Tom O'Neill, Michael Feeney and Pat Gibbons were the principal organisers.



On July 22nd, 1979 Tourmakeady qualified for the West Mayo Junior Final for the first time in seven years by virtue of an easy win over Burrishoole in the semi-final. Two weeks later, on the morning of Monday, August 6th, a party of 74 players, members and supporters departed Tourmakeady village en route to Shannon Airport. The Tourmakeady team was joined by three guests: Ger and Seán Feeney from Ballintubber and Stephen Kelly from Breaffy.

The 1979 tour itinerary included six games in Chicago and Detroit within the space of two weeks. In the opening game, Tourmakeady took on a Chicago selection featuring six inter-county players. Playing in temperatures in excess of 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 Celsius), Tourmakeady won by 4-14 to 4-11 on the astroturf surface of Hanson Stadium. Mattie and Tommy Heneghan contributed 1-1 each and Ger Feeney scored 1-6 of the Tourmakeady tally.

Throughout the tour, the Tourmakeady visitors enjoyed great hospitality and stayed in the homes of their hosts. They won all their games except for

the last encounter. On August 23rd, the tour party returned to Ireland. A sun-tanned Tourmakeady team took to the field in MacHale Park on September 9th and made history by winning the West Mayo Junior Championship for the first time in the club's history on a final scoreline of Tourmakeady 1-12, Achill 0-3. Founder member Seán Ó Sé, then in his fourteenth season in the black and white, came on as a substitute to share in the glory. Achill subsequently departed on their own US trip to Cleveland while Tourmakeady went on to win the 1979 County Junior Championship.

Tourmakeady made a second tour to Chicago in August 1986 and on that occasion they were accompanied by neighbours Ballintubber, who they had knocked out of the Mayo Senior Football Championship just a few weeks previously. Seán Seoighe captained the amalgamated Tourmakeady/Ballintubber team. They wore the green and red colours of Mayo and were joined in America by a number of other Mayo players. Hundreds of exiles gathered in O'Hare Airport to



Left: The pre-match parade before the meeting of Tourmakeady and John McBrides GFC in Hanson Stadium, Chicago, August 1979. Right: Willie Barker, Seán Ó Cróinín (waving), and Mickey Hennelly.

## Chicago, Here We Come !

welcome the visitors from Ireland on their arrival. As in 1979, John McBride's GFC were the hosts and provided opposition. Games were also played against St. Brendan's Chicago and in Milwaukee. But unlike 1979, Tourmakeady were out of the Senior Championship and a shortage of local

employment opportunities meant that emigration was the only option for many young people. With nothing to return home for, several of the touring party of 150 footballers and supporters stayed on in Chicago, where a few of them became involved in the local GAA scene.



Last call for departure EI125 to Chicago! Tourmakeady GAA club on tour, Shannon Airport, August 6, 1979



## ***In the States with Tourmakeady in '79***

*by Seán Feeney*

The days and weeks of preparation were behind us as we boarded Eddie Walsh's bus from Harrington's en route to Chicago on Monday, August 6, 1979. The day was dull and wet – we had a terrible summer up to that – but the party was in high spirits. Despite numerous stops along the way, we finally made it to Shannon. There were the usual duty-free purchases to be made but the big problem was to get everyone on the plane –

not that anyone wanted to wait behind. Memories of boarding gate No. 10 at 4.30 on that day will always remain with me. After a few anxious moments and some calls over the public address system, Kevin O'Toole, the chief organiser, finally relaxed. The journey across the Atlantic was tiring but enjoyable. Sergeant Callaghan had brought on board a pack of cards and occasionally the ballad group with Ger Timoney would strike up a rousing tune – clearly to impress the hostesses! The announcement of touchdown was made twenty minutes in advance in a temperature of 90 degrees. And weren't we sweating!

The heat was intense as we taxied to the



Tourmakeady GAA club's visit to the Office of the Mayor of Chicago, August 1979. From left: Billy Hennelly, Jim Callaghan, Jarlath "Manny" Heveran, Michael Hennelly, Denis Harrington, Fr. Noel Forde, Mattie Heneghan, Mike Maloney (Secretary of John McBride's GFC, Chicago), Major Jane Byrne, David Middleton? (behind Mayor), Michael John Casey, Kevin O'Toole, Adrian Gavin, Tommy Heneghan, Gearóid Timoney.

terminal building at O'Hare Airport. All passengers were screened for security reasons. Eventually we went on to meet our hosts at the Golden Flame Banquet Hall. I and my wife Mary had the pleasure of staying with our namesakes, Mary and Mike Feeney, in North Bernard. We will never forget their hospitality. The thing about Americans is that when you decide to visit their country, they leave no stone unturned to make you welcome. Phones kept hopping off hooks as exiles sought the whereabouts of members of the visiting party. Sometimes three functions at one time could be offered.

The Tourmakeady emigrants were exceptionally hospitable and "outsiders" like myself were treated like their own. The trip itself was superbly organised from the Tourmakeady end by Kevin O'Toole, Willie Feeley and Fr. Noel Forde. On the other side, Mike Feeney, Mike Maloney, Pat Gibbons and the members of the McBrides Club did a superb job. This was one of the reasons why the trip was so enjoyable. The sing-songs in the Abbey, which was our "local" in the Windy City, were always enjoyable. So, too, were the later sessions.

The games themselves were very successful and the Tourmakeady team did itself proud – beaten only in the final match. The football was entertaining, tough and physical. It was no place for referees. Unfortunately I had the unenviable task of refereeing some of the matches but I managed to survive despite a few threats.

Our visit to Mayor Jane Byrne – her people came from Castlebar – was something of a non-event. She was courteous but strangely nervous when she saw so many Irishmen in her office at 9

o'clock in the morning. The tension was broken when the Mayor shyly asked: "Where did you get the money to fly out here?" Gearóid Mulrooney (never at a loss for words) chirped: "We robbed a bank!" The Mayor smiled, the audience erupted into laughter, and the only ones who were not impressed were the security guards.

We travelled by rail to Detroit. The journey was terrible. We christened the train "Old Smokey". People were saying "Thank God for CIE, we love you". Tourmakeady won both their games in Detroit and we had a fantastic time, especially in the Gaelic League Centre where a flag bearing the words "Céad Míle Fáilte Tourmakeady" hung over the main entrance.

Fr. Forde, Mary and I stayed with the Trainor family. We were out in the country and Mr. Trainor had a large family of ducks, hens and geese. Home away from home! The three weeks slipped quickly by and it was a sad and tired party that bade farewell. The ballad group provided lively Irish music at an impromptu session at O'Hare Airport, much to the delight and pleasure of the many foreigners present. I made many friends in the States – our hosts, the Feeney family, Mike, Jimmy and Pat, their families, Mike Maloney, Pat Gibbons, Mick Lally, Michael Heneghan and Angie Keeley, to name just a few. To Tourmakeady G.A.A. Club congratulations on a job well done. Long may the games prosper in your area. Go n-eirí go geal libh.

*Based on an article in the Official Programme for the opening of Páirc Naomh Muire in July 1984*



## ***The Tourmakeady / Ballintubber Tour of 1986***

*by Michael John Casey*

The Tourmakeady / Ballintubber tour of 1986 was at the invitation of the John McBride's Gaelic Football Club in Chicago North. The main organisers there were Michael Lally and his wife Mary Jo from Derryveeney, Michael and Mrs. Feeney (formerly of Shanvallyard), Frank Keane (The Neale), Barbara Flaherty, Séamus Hughes (Carnacon), and Mike Maloney (Donegal).



An aerial view of Chicago in the 1980s

The main dance was the meeting place for many Irish-Americans. Amongst the large crowd in attendance were the Derrig brothers; the Barker boys; Brendan Heneghan and Martin, with Maria and Blanche; Pat and Mary Heneghan-Lally with sons John and Kevin, and daughter, Mary Ann, with her fiancée, Jim O'Boyle; Bernie Moran,

Tommie Joe Staunton and his brothers John, Gerry and Eddie and their dad, Tommie; Kathleen, Maria, and Mary Pat Lally; Vincent Daly and Mary Treasa; and the O'Malley sisters.

It was on to Hanson Stadium for the first game against John McBride's. While the result was in favour of the Irish-Americans, it was a great day for all. Tommie and Ann Naughton and family were there, as were Paddy Keane from Cloonee, and Paddy Heneghan and family from Drimcoggie. Enjoying themselves also were Hugh Naughton and family, Pádraic Thornton, Seán Thornton and Pat Thornton from Carheen. And the Behan sisters, Maureen, Martina and Sally, along with Noel Heneghan, Derreendafferg, were having a whale of a time.

The following Sunday the South Side of Chicago saw one of its great Gaelic football days. Two goals from Ballintubber's Johnny Larkin gave victory to the Irish lads in the final minutes. Noreen and Jimmy Hughes and family were there. Paddy Meenaghan was accompanied by his sister, Mary Durcan, who was on tour. Paddy and Mary's brother, Michael Meenaghan, was one of the main sponsors of the tour. It was South Side again on Thursday with a defeat by the St. Brendan's Club by a narrow margin. This was a week during which many of the travelling party flew to other parts of the States to meet friends and relatives. I travelled to Pennsylvania to visit Tommie Casey whose father came from Glensaul.

Then it was back to Chicago and on to the Irish Fest 1986 in Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Thousands assembled there from all parts of the U.S. wearing green, singing Irish songs and selling Irish goods. Six stages were in constant use with Irish bands

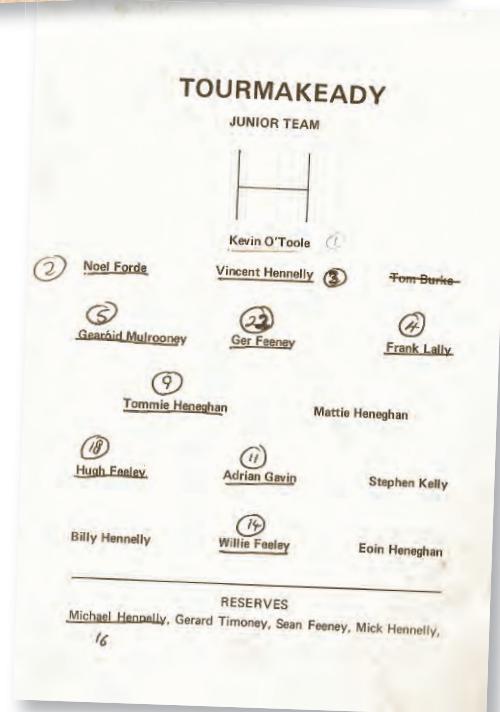
playing from 10 o'clock in the morning to 11.30 at night on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. One hundred rooms were booked in the Wisconsin Hotel for the Tourmakeady-Ballintubber party and their Chicago friends. It was a hectic weekend, lots of action, little sleep ... and the manager of the touring teams being offered apple tart and sardines for breakfast!

In the final game of the tour, the visitors won a rousing game in almost 90 degrees of heat, beating a Chicago-Milwaukee selection. After the match the winners were presented with a set of jerseys by Donie Cronin of Milwaukee. In Wisconsin were Sarah Behan, Nora Miller and her daughters, Judy, Bridgie, Maureen, Mike Maloney, Annie Kerrigan, all the Lallys of Tawnagh, Derryveeney and Carheen; Maureen and Pat Carr, Ann Ronan, with Ann Maria, Marie Meenaghan, Kitty Gibbons, Ger Gibbons, Carmel Heneghan, Patricia Dolan, Brian Gibbons, Pádraic Gibbons, Ann Carr, Bridie Dolan, Ann Gibbons, Suzanna and Yvonne Mulqueen.

Then it was back to Chicago for the final presentation function at the Abbey pub. Both sides exchanged gifts in a touching display of friendship. Tributes were paid to the hosts by Michael Lally, Michael Feeney, Seán Feeney, Jackie Heneghan, Michael John Casey and John Joe Joyce. The hospitality shown by their American friends was outstanding, they all agreed.

On our return home a *céad míle fáilte* awaited us with tea, buns, and an Irish welcome to brighten the overcast skies, in striking contrast to the sparkling sunshine of Chicago. But we retain many happy memories of our trip, the many people we met and the new friends we made. Our exiles are a credit to our country. We can all be proud of them.

*Based on an article in the Connaught Telegraph, September 17, 1986*







The Tourmakeady / Ballintubber trip to Chicago 1986. Back: Tony O'Connor (Ballintubber), Jimmy Walsh (Breaffy), Frank Lally (Tourmakeady), Pádraig Heneghan (Tourmakeady), John Gardiner (Chicago), Paul Gavin (Tourmakeady), Mícheál Molloy (Tourmakeady), Tom Burke (Kilmaine), Tom Blake (Ballintubber), Tom Earley (Ballintubber). Front: Johnny Larkin (Ballintubber), Thomas O'Grady (Burrishoole), Johnny Concannon (Ballintubber), Jackie Heneghan (Ballintubber), John Joe Joyce (Tourmakeady) - Captain, Seán McHugh (Ballintubber), Eddie Gibbons (Tourmakeady), Barry Langan (Ballinrobe), Kevin Derrig (Tourmakeady), Richie Bell (Carramore). Missing from photo: Michael John Casey, Kevin O'Toole, Noel Forde (all Tourmakeady), Seán Feeney (Ballintubber).

Opposite page:  
USA tour brochure cover and  
teamsheet, 1979.

Pictured right:  
Tourmakeady / Ballintubber GAA Club  
American tour fundraising raffle ticket  
for two Raleigh bikes.



# A LIFETIME OF GREAT MEMORIES: JIM CALLAGHAN

Jim Callaghan, the current Honorary President of CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, first came to this parish as a young guard 60 years ago. He was stationed in Tourmakeady where he formed a great friendship with his colleague Tom Molloy, who like Jim also filled the role of club president in later years. “Molloy’s was a home away from home for me”, recalls Jim. “Many’s the hour I spent in that house. Myself and Tom patrolled the whole area from Tourmakeady over the hill to Glenmask and back to the Ferry Bridge. One night I remember we were coming back from a dance in Finny, Tom punctured his bicycle so we walked the rest of the way home. That’s how we got around in those days”.

In his youth, Jim was a member of the Knocknagoshel and Castleisland Desmonds clubs in his native county Kerry. He also played with Rockchapel over the border in Cork and with Breaffy in Mayo. Just before he came to Tourmakeady, Jim ruptured his knee in a Castlebar Town League game between Breaffy and the Mental Hospital. Instead of coming off, he stayed on the field for the full hour and later the same evening he went out on foot patrol. He never played football again after that injury.

In the Autumn of 1955, just at the time when Jim arrived in Tourmakeady, efforts were being made to revive the local GAA club. All these years later, there is still a tinge of regret in Jim’s voice when he

speaks of his football career ending prematurely and the fact that he never got the chance to wear the Tourmakeady colours. “Tourmakeady were starting up a team then and I would have been some use to them, I was a full back”. As it turned out, it would be another 10 years before Tourmakeady GAA club would get back on its feet, when a new club was formed in 1965. By then, Jim had been promoted to the rank of sergeant and was stationed in Partry. The first chairman of the new club, Owen Denny, credits Jim Callaghan as being very influential at that time because he helped to bring the Partry-based players along to training in Tourmakeady.



Jim Callaghan, Honorary President of CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, receiving an award for lifetime service at the club’s dinner dance in January 2011. Also in picture is former Mayo footballer and manager John O’Mahony TD and Orla Callaghan.



From the 1960s to the 1980s, Jim served as a selector for the Junior team. One of his personal highlights was in 1979 when Tourmakeady GAA club went on a tour to Chicago and then won the West Mayo and County Finals following their return. In later years, Jim helped out with the club's juvenile teams. He and Pat Naughton managed the U-12s to a West Mayo title in 1993. Several members of that U-12 team went on to win Junior and Intermediate county titles as adult players. When the final whistle blew on those great days, they went over to Jim to share the moment with the man who had mentored them in their formative years.

Jim Callaghan never lost his strong Kerry accent but his heart has long been in Mayo. Although he follows the footballing fortunes of his native county with great interest, his allegiance is firmly with the

green and red whenever the men from the Kingdom take on Mayo. Jim retired from An Garda Síochána in February 1984, having served for over 25 years in Partry and a few before that in Tourmakeady. Jim remarks with typical good humour that he is now “nearly as many years out of the force as I served in it”. He has a keen interest in card games and without fail he makes it out for the weekly gathering of friends in Partry, a tradition that has been going on for many years. He also keeps an attentive eye on Tourmakeady's football teams and recently attended the Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta tournament when it was hosted in Páirc Naomh Muire. We wish you many more years of happiness and good health Jim, and thank you for your wonderful contribution to community life in this parish over the years.



U-12 “B” West Mayo Champions 1993. Back: Martha Ní Mháille, Lorraine Ní Néill, Aoife Ní Mháille, Michael James Meenaghan, Ruraigh Gibbons, Brendan Garry, Adrian Dolan, David O’Toole, Brian Naughton, Rob Kennedy, Danny Lydon, Thomas Gibbons, Niall Lydon, Michael Heneghan, Anthony Lydon. Front: Karl Conroy, Anthony O’Neill, Michael Gibbons, Mícheál Ronan, Brian Heneghan, Stephen O’Neill, John Joyce, Kevin Dolan, Micky Lydon, David Ronan, Ronan Burke, Mícheál Lally. Bainisteoirí: Pat Naughton and Jim Callaghan. Photo: Tommy Eibrand.

### ONWARDS AND UPWARDS: 1980 - 1984



Mattie Heneghan flying high in the 1982 Intermediate County Final in MacHale Park, Castlebar, September 26, 1982. From left: M. Moran? (Burrishoole), Mícheál Molloy (TMÉ), Mattie Heneghan (TMÉ), J. O'Malley? (Burrishoole), T. Moran (Burrishoole No. 11), J. Moylette (Burrishoole No. 15), Seán Seoighe (TMÉ No. 4). © Photo: Frank Dolan.



All through the 1970s, Tourmakeady Juniors threatened to make the breakthrough but several times they crashed on the rocks in the latter stages of the West Mayo Championship. When they finally made it out of the West in 1979, they went all the way and captured the county title outright. In the following seasons, Tourmakeady quickly rose through the ranks of Mayo football and were able to hold their own against the top clubs in the county in tournaments and official competitions. The early years of the 1980s was a golden era for the club during which the mens, ladies and juvenile teams enjoyed success.

### ***1980: The story of the year***

1980 was quite a good season for Tourmakeady GAA club. At the very beginning of the year, the Scór na nÓg set dancers, who had been beaten by just one point in the previous year's All-Ireland final, retained their Connacht title in fine style and qualified for the national finals.

Following his outstanding performance in the 1979 Junior county final, Kevin Dermody received a call up to the Mayo senior football panel. In his début against Galway in a challenge match, he kicked three points. The following week, he scored seven against Fermanagh. In the final round of the National Football League against Roscommon on February 3rd, he again was Mayo's top scorer with a haul of four points. But as it turned out, that was the only time he wore the green and red jersey in a competitive fixture.

In March 1980, Tourmakeady played Parke in the Kelly Cup final (West Mayo League) at wind-swept Clogher. This competition did not run in 1979 so Tourmakeady entered the final as reigning champions on account of having won it in 1978.

The teams were level at the end of normal time and in 30 minutes of extra time they managed only one score between them – a point by Parke – which was enough to take the title. Noel Forde was corner back on the Tourmakeady team that day and, unusually, it fell to him to present the cup to the opposing captain because he was the West Mayo Chairperson at the time.

At the Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta in Clonbur in June, Tourmakeady reached the Junior football final but lost to Baile na Sceilge (Kerry). The club did not come home empty-handed though, because the Senior set dancers won their first ever major award when they captured the All-Ireland Gaeltacht cup.

That same week, Tourmakeady won their first ever game at the U-21 grade when they defeated Islandeady in the opening round of the West Mayo championship. Eugene Mulrooney and Mattie Heneghan were dominant at midfield and created several chances for their forward division, in which promising youngsters Mícheál Molloy and Brian Gibbons shone. They went all the way to the West Mayo final but lost by the narrowest of margins to Burrishoole in a replay, 2-8 to 2-7. The Tourmakeady U-21 team that played in the final was: Willie Barker, Tomás Molloy, Michael Morrin, Seán Lydon, Pádraig Munroe, Seán Seoighe, Joe Gavin, Mattie Heneghan, Mícheál Molloy, Eugene Mulrooney, Brian Gibbons, Paul Gavin, Martin Lydon, and Michael Thornton.

1980 was the first year that Tourmakeady competed in the Mayo Intermediate football championship. They fell to Davitts in the quarter-final. In the Intermediate league, Tourmakeady enjoyed an excellent run and got as far as the semi-final where they lost to neighbours Ballintubber by two points in a hotly contested local derby. The

Intermediate team did manage to collect some silverware in November when they beat Shrulle in the final of the Mayo Abbey tournament (Nally Cup).

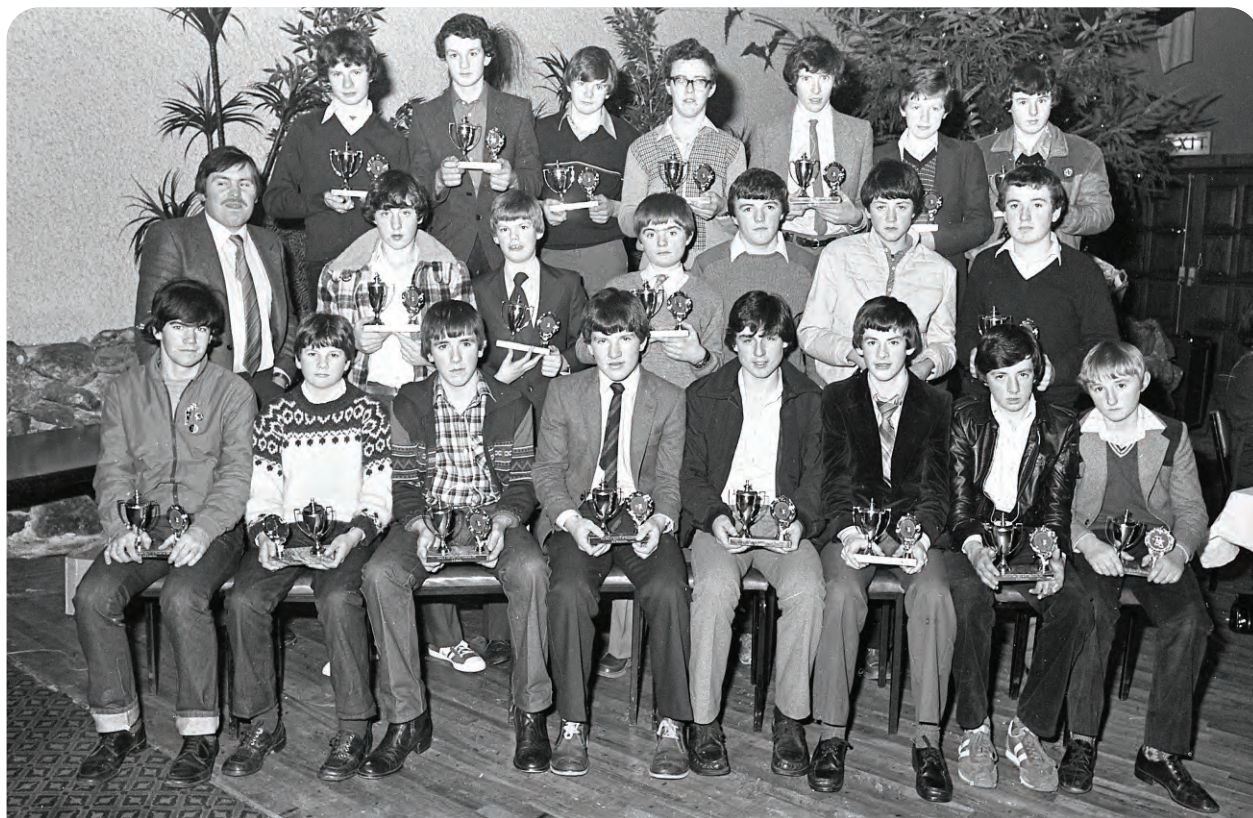
All the club's underage teams fared well in 1980. The U-15 seven-a-side team got to the West Mayo blitz final but were narrowly defeated by Castlebar. The U-14s reached the West Mayo "B" final for the second year in a row and the U-16s also qualified for the West Mayo "B" final.

Burrishoole provided the opposition and took the honours at both grades, thus beating Tourmakeady in three finals in the same year, having already captured the U-21 title. This rivalry between Tourmakeady and Burrishoole at underage level would later manifest itself at adult level, most notably in the county Intermediate final of 1982, in which a number of the U-16 and U-21 players of 1980 were involved.



Intermediate County Finalists 1981. Standing: Billy Hennelly, Michael Morrin, Mattie Heneghan, Vincent Hennelly, Gearóid Mulrooney, Tommy Heneghan, Eugen Mulrooney, Joe Gavin, Willie Feeley. Kneeling: Paul Gavin, Seán Seoighe, Jimmy Heneghan, Pat Naughton (capt.), Frank Lally, Adrian Gavin, Owen Heneghan, Seán Lydon. Sitting: Tomás Molloy, Michael O'Malley, Mícheál Molloy, Pádraig Thornton.





The Tourmakeady U-16 team which beat Garrymore in the 1981 "B" County Final. Back: Patrick Lydon, Michael Thornton, Tomás Gavin, Christy Lally, Michael O'Malley, Joe Joyce, T.J. Derrig. Centre: Willie Feely, Pat Folan, Danny Harrington, Johnny Ronan, Pádraig Ó hÉanacháin, John McHale, Vincent O'Neill. Front: Martin Heneghan, Diarmuid Gavin, Michael Horan, Mícheál Molloy, Joe Dolan, John Harrington, Martin Staunton, Johnny Heneghan. © Photo: Frank Dolan.

### ***Breakthroughs and new beginnings***

Ladies Gaelic football was played in Tourmakeady on an irregular basis since the early 1970s but it wasn't until 1981 that a Ladies club from the parish was formally affiliated with the Mayo Ladies County Board. Indeed, the Ladies County Board fell away in the late 1970s and Noreen Lally (now Hughes) from Derryveeney

played an important role in re-organising ladies football in Mayo in the early 1980s. In their first year in official competitions in 1981, Tourmakeady ladies lost to an experienced Bonnicconlon side in the Senior League final. They did however win the Tourmakeady, Cong, and Charlestown ladies football tournaments that year.

On the closing day of Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh '81, Pat Naughton became the first Tourmakeady

captain to lift the Gaeltarra Cup when his team beat Breaffy in the final. That set the tone for a great run in the 1981 Intermediate championship, in which Tourmakeady beat Ballyhaunis, Moy Davitts and Bonnicconlon to qualify for the county final against Davitts on August 30th in Ballinrobe. Their efforts came up just short on the day, losing by 0-9 to 1-5.

In September, the Tourmakeady U-16s were back in the West Mayo “B” final for the third year in a row, having previously won in 1979 and lost in 1980. This time their opponents were Ballintubber. Tourmakeady came through as winners by 2-6 to 2-5 and they subsequently went on to beat Garrymore in the county final. This was the first county title that Tourmakeady GAA club ever won at underage level. Most of these boys were born in 1965, the year the club was founded.

### ***Double success for Tourmakeady mens and ladies teams***

In sporting history, 1982 goes down as the year that Séamus Darby’s last minute goal for Offaly in the All-Ireland football final ended Kerry’s dreams of five-in-a-row, Ollie Campbell’s accurate kicking helped the Irish rugby team win its first Triple Crown in 33 years, and Paolo Rossi’s goals delivered the soccer World Cup to Italy.

And in Tourmakeady, 1982 is remembered as the season that the mens and ladies teams both won their county championships in the same year. The men beat Burrishoole in the Intermediate final while the ladies won the Mayo Senior championship at the expense of Bonnicconlon. In the case of both titles, it was the first time the club had ever won them. Twenty eight years later, several sons and daughters of the teams of ’82

achieved another double with victories in the mens (Intermediate) and ladies (Junior) county finals of 2010.

Kathleen Feeley (née Molloy) has particularly fond memories of the last weekend of September 1982. She got married to Tourmakeady team trainer Willie Feeley that Saturday. Then on Sunday, her brother Mícheál played at corner-forward in the Intermediate county final. At his own wedding reception, Willie Feeley kept a watchful eye on the Tourmakeady players to ensure they didn’t indulge themselves. They made up for it with the victory celebrations the following evening. It was Tourmakeady’s third appearance in a county final within four years. Their experience told in a tense closing period when Burrishoole edged ahead but Tourmakeady replied with three late points from brothers Paul, Joe and Adrian Gavin to win by 1-8 to 1-6.

Having won the Gaeltarra Cup for the first time in 1981, Tourmakeady surrendered it to Hollymount in ’82 in a closely contested decider that ended 1-7 to 1-9 in favour of the visitors. The runners-up spot was also Tourmakeady’s lot in the 1982 Horan Cup final at Clogher, but that didn’t prevent them from kidnapping the cup and taking it on a tour of Tourmakeady. The Castlebar team were left in total bewilderment as to the whereabouts of their newly acquired silverware.

In October 1982, Tourmakeady Ladies played in the Senior League final for the second year in a row but lost narrowly to Cong, with whom they enjoyed a great rivalry at that time. Two years later, the same two teams met in the 1984 Senior League final and on that occasion the Tourmakeady girls emerged as winners. Tourmakeady and Cong also contested the Ladies Senior Championship finals of 1983 and 1984.



1982 was also a memorable year for a number of Tourmakeady players involved in secondary schools football: Mícheál Molloy played a central role in helping St. Jarlath's of Tuam win the All-Ireland Senior Colleges Championship, while Seán Lydon, Michael Horan, Joe Dolan and Michael O'Malley were all members of the Mayo Vocational Schools squad that won the All-Ireland title.

### ***Tourmakeady enter the ranks of Mayo Senior club football***

Tourmakeady played in Junior ranks for the first fourteen seasons of the club's existence, from 1966 to 1979. Just four years after winning the Junior Football Championship, Tourmakeady found themselves at the top table, playing in the Mayo Senior Football Championship. The club's first championship outing at this grade came on Sunday, June 19th, 1983 when they took on Belmullet in the opening round at Ballina.

Tourmakeady came into the game in good form. They were faring well in the Senior Football League, had re-captured the Gaeltarra Cup with a hard-earned win over Knockmore in May, and won the All-Ireland Junior Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta on Whit weekend in Gweedore. But Belmullet, with Willie Joe Padden at midfield, were just that bit more experienced and this carried them through on a score of 2-7 to 0-11.

In 1984, Tourmakeady again exited the Senior Football Championship in the first round following a 1-9 to 1-10 loss against Lacken, who went all the way to the county final. But despite this disappointment, 1984 was a wonderful year for Tourmakeady GAA club. The Senior mens team won the Horan Cup, Gaeltarra Cup, and 7-a-side County Championship (the latter two on the same day). The Senior ladies won the county league and the All-Ireland Gaeltacht 7-a-side tournament. And on July 22nd, the club's new grounds and clubhouse at Páirc Naomh Muire were officially opened, a very fitting way of marking the centenary year of the GAA.



Tourmakeady captain Mattie Heneghan accepts the Roche Cup following his team's win in the London Tournament in 1983

## Mayo Intermediate Football Championship Final 1982

# TOURMAKEADY ARE CHAMPIONS

Tourmakeady 1-8 Burrishoole 1-6



Paddy Muldoon, Chairman of Mayo GAA County Board, presents the Mayo Intermediate Football Championship shield to Frank Lally, captain of the victorious Tourmakeady team, at MacHale Park, September 26, 1982

Tourmakeady's day has finally come. On their second attempt, the Gaeltacht club clinched the elusive intermediate crown by beating off a strong challenge from a sturdy Burrishoole outfit in an exciting intermediate final at MacHale Park on

Sunday which was marred by wind and rain. However, the elements didn't detract from the full blooded performance of both sides and although the game never reached the level expected, the attention of a large crowd was held until the very



end with the sides level ten minutes from time. But it was during that final ten minutes that Tourmakeady found that reserve of strength to sling over the match-winning point and although Burrishoole always looked capable of causing an upset, Tourmakeady merited this victory on their all-round performance.

We had confidently predicted a Tourmakeady win but such was the equality of the sides that only a kick of the ball stood between them in the end and the winners had to struggle all the way before victory was achieved. Burrishoole always looked capable of an upset and adopted better to the heavy underfoot conditions on the day. They looked particularly good in the last quarter when they crashed in a goal and followed with a point to take the lead. But the Heneghan brothers at midfield came back into the picture and Tourmakeady finally managed to shrug off the challenge and snatch a victory they had to work hard for but duly earned in the end.

It was a double celebration for trainer Willie Feeley who was married the previous day but the celebrations for the Tourmakeady team who were in attendance was kept alcohol-free and their sacrifice on the day was duly rewarded with a match-winning performance.

Free-flowing football was very much at a minimum and a greasy ball combined with the tight marking of both defences made for very hard earned scores and a 0-5 to 0-4 scoreline at the break is a reflection on just how tight things were in the opening half.

Burrishoole played with the assistance of a strong breeze but struggled during the opening ten minutes as Tourmakeady built up a two point

lead. Brian Gibbons fired over the first score for the winners inside a minute but Burrishoole's talented James Moylette levelled after four minutes with an excellent point from play. Tourmakeady were trying hard to open up the play with some short passing movements but more often than not they were broken down by the sturdy Burrishoole rearguard.

However, in one of their best movements Adrian Gavin finished nicely to push Tourmakeady ahead and Paul Gavin put them two points clear after ten minutes when he picked off a close range point. Pádraic McCormack cut the leeway to one point with a well taken free in the 15th minute but Joe Gavin replied from play for Tourmakeady. It turned out to be the winners last score of the half as Burrishoole finished very strong in the realisation that they needed more scores having to face the wind in the second half.

Christy Loftus set up James Moylette for a superb point from play and six minutes from the break Moylette was on target again from play to level matters. Burrishoole snatched the lead just before the break when J.P. Sheridan guided a free between the posts from about 45 yards but the losers must have felt they should have been further ahead having wasted costly wides during the half. In the end those wides were to prove important but Tourmakeady also clocked up a few bad misses during the second half.

Tourmakeady started the second half in a whirlwind fashion. Within seconds the Burrishoole goalmouth was buzzing and in the 39th minute what seemed to be the title-clinching goal for the winners came when the ball broke loose in the square to Paul Gavin who stabbed it low to the

empty net. When Adrian Gavin followed this up three minutes later with a free to put his side three points clear, one sensed Tourmakeady were on their way to victory.

But Burrishoole didn't agree. In the 47th minute they came back with a vengeance to throw the game wide open once again. A Pádraic McCormack free came off the post and in the scramble to clear the ball, Michael Grady got a boot in and guided it to the net. And when Christy Loftus fired over a magnificent point three minutes later, Tourmakeady's victory plans seemed to be in ruins as defeat now stared them in the face.

But just as Burrishoole had proven their character and spirit by coming back, Tourmakeady also found the reserve of strength. Other teams would have panicked but they waited for their time. That one point lead which put Burrishoole in front turned out to be their last of the game and in a pulsating final ten minutes, Tourmakeady managed those three vital points. Paul Gavin levelled with a free seven minutes from time and three minutes later Joe Gavin fired over the vital point from play to nose in front.



Adrian Gavin



Brian Gibbons and Adrian Gavin  
celebrate with team trainer  
Willie Feeley

Burrishoole were still not out of it and could have levelled in the closing minute but a 45 yard free by Michael Grady dropped short of the target. With only seconds remaining Adrian Gavin wiped out Burrishoole's hope of forcing a draw when he was on target with a close range free. Tourmakeady had won, perhaps not as convincingly as I expected, but Burrishoole proved they are always a force to be reckoned with. But it was just reward for the winners who came so close last year but were fittingly crowned on this occasion.

#### **Tourmakeady:**

G. Mulrooney, M. Morrin, V. Hennelly, J. J. Joyce, J. Heneghan, P. Naughton, F. Lally, M. Heneghan, T. Heneghan, B. Gibbons (0-1), J. Gavin (0-2), A. Gavin (0-2), P. Gavin (1-2), S. Lydon, M. Molloy. Subs: O. Heneghan for P. Naughton.

#### **Burrishoole:**

M. Corcoran, M. Moran, P. O'Malley, C. Loftus (0-1), P. McCormack (0-1), P. Moylette, S. Hoban, P. Burke, J. O'Malley, M. Grady (1-0), T. Moran, J. McManamon, J. P. Sheridan (0-1), J. Moylette (0-3). Sub: F. McHale for P. Moylette.

*Based on an article by John Melvin in the Connaught Telegraph, September 29, 1982.*





1982 County Intermediate Champions. Back: Noel Forde, David Middleton, Mattie Heneghan, Tommy Heneghan, Michael Morrin, Gearóid Mulrooney, Pat Naughton, Vincent Hennelly, Adrian Gavin, Joe Gavin, Willie Feeley. Front: Michael "Rocky" Meeneghan, Tomás Molloy, Michael O'Malley (sitting), Billy Hennelly, Pádraig Thornton (sitting), Brian Gibbons, Frank Lally, Michael Horan (sitting), Seán Seoighe, Mícheál Molloy (sitting), Jimmy Heneghan, Owen Heneghan, Paul Gavin, Seán Lydon.



Officers, award winners and special guests of Tourmakeady GAA Club at the January 1982 annual dinner dance. Back: Austin Garvin (Chairman, Mayo Minor Board), Michael John Casey (P.R.O.), Seán Feeney (Secretary West Mayo GAA), Seán Molloy (Club President), Adrian Gavin (Secretary), and Michael Morrin (Treasurer). Front: Fr. Jarlath Waldron P.P., Jimmy Heneghan (Player of the Year), Willie Feeley (Clubman of the Year), Fr. Noel Forde (Chairman), Kevin O'Toole (outgoing secretary and special award for dedication to club). © Photo: Frank Dolan.



West Mayo and County 7-a-side Champions 1984. Back: Frank Lally, Tommy Heneghan, Jimmy Heneghan, Mícheál Molloy, Paul Gavin, Seán Lydon. Front: Michael Horan, Seán Seoighe, Brian Gibbons, Michael O'Malley. Missing: Michael Morrin. © Photo: Frank Dolan.



## PASSING THE BATON: THE LINK BETWEEN THE INTERMEDIATE WINNING TEAMS OF '82 AND '06

*by Michael Morrin*

My first memory of being involved in a Tourmakeady team was at an underage game in Westport in the 1970s. I was handed my first black and white jersey and told that I was playing. That moment of excitement was short lived however,



Michael Morrin,  
Intermediate County  
Final 1981

when management realised that they had given the jersey to the wrong Morrin. It was quickly taken back and given to my brother Mattie who was two years my senior.

The first time I remember being in a competitive team was at U-21 level in 1980. We beat a Parke team that was fancied for county honours in the West semi-final in

Clogher. We just managed to win by one point despite having been up by nine points at half time. In the West final, we met Burrishoole in Castlebar and were leading by four points with minutes left, only to concede 1-1. In the replay in Westport we were eight points down but after some hard graft we reduced the deficit to two points. When the Burrishoole crossbar was rattled in the dying seconds and the ball flew over instead of under, our fate was decided by the referee's whistle.

If we needed a sign that better things were around the corner, in my mind it came on a very wet Sunday in May 1981 in Heaney's field when we defeated a Castlebar Mitchels side in the afternoon and an Islandeady side in the evening. Both of these teams had county players on the field that day. This set us up for a Gaeltarra Cup win the same year. By 1982, the experienced players like Gearóid Mulrooney, Vincent Hennelly, Frank Lally, Pat Naughton, Jimmy Heneghan, Tommy Heneghan, Adrian Gavin and Owen Heneghan were joined by John Joyce (John Joe), Mattie Heneghan, Joe and Paul Gavin, Mícheál Molloy, Brian Gibbons, Seánie Lydon and myself (from the 1980 U-21 team) to make up the team that was to win the club's first Intermediate title in 1982. We had gained valuable experience after having lost to Davitts in the Intermediate final of 1981 and by '82 we were set on redeeming ourselves. We met our U-21 rivals, Parke, in the semi-final, followed by Burrishoole in the final. After two titanic struggles, we overcame Parke on a score line of Tourmakeady 2-8, Parke 1-9. In the final, the scores finished at Burrishoole 1-6, Tourmakeady 1-8. This gave CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh their first Intermediate title.

Gaeltarra Cups, Horan Cups, a Comórtas win in '83 and a County 7-a-side title in '84 were soon added to this. In 1983, Raidio na Gaeltachta showed a special interest in the first round of the Mayo Senior Championship, as it was the first time that both the Junior and Senior Comórtas



The Tourmakeady team in an unusual assortment of jerseys at an unidentified game about 1982, possibly a tournament or Comórtas. Back: Joe Gavin, Michael Morrin, Mattie Heneghan, Vincent Hennelly, Gearóid Mulrooney, Pat Naughton, Tommy Heneghan, Adrian Gavin, Willie Feeley. Front: Owen Heneghan, Brian Gibbons, John Joe Joyce, Frank Lally, Jimmy Heneghan, Paul Gavin, Eugene Mulrooney.

All-Ireland finalists from '83 (Tourmakeady and Belmullet respectively) met each other in the first round of the competition.

There were a number of great years at Senior and Division 1 of Mayo football and some memorable contests with our neighbours Ballintubber, but a senior title was to elude us. We didn't realise how hard recession would hit us until we were relegated from Division 1 to Division 2, and when we failed to field a team for two matches we were further relegated to Division 4. Our first game back at this level was away in North Mayo. While in previous years we had been used to quite basic conditions ourselves, at this stage we were in our newly opened pitch and dressing rooms in Tourmakeady, - so when we saw

that the cross bar was a crush pipe and the goal posts were ESB poles, it came as quite a shock.

We had a lot of lean years but one memory I have of that time is captaining the Tourmakeady team to the West semi-final in 1987 where, unfortunately, we lost out to Louisburgh who went on to win the county title. In 1995 we were back in a West Final again and the only remaining link to the 1982 team was Tommy Heneghan, club stalwart, and myself. Despite losing in the final, this team was to provide a number of players for Tourmakeady's next great team who would win the Intermediate title in 2006: Michael John and Ciarán Walsh, John and Joe Heneghan and Colm Ó Conghaile. The '06 team would raise the bar even higher in subsequent years.



There were many comical moments over the years, a memorable one being the signal to retire. We were playing Parke and Tommy and I were the “auld fellas”. A corner back was pulling me back and the referee gave a free. He commented, “You only gave him a free because he’s old!” On another occasion, while playing a League game in Heaney’s field, Jimmy Heneghan was “enthusiastically” marking a young county player when a Ballina supporter shouted to take it easy, that he was playing in Croke Park the following week. A local wag retorted that if he survived Jimmy’s test, then Croker would be a doddle! And finally, shaving foam is for beards and not pyjamas or shoes, and showing an extra steering wheel to fellow motorists while overtaking isn’t always a great idea. But ... what happens at Comórtas, stays at Comórtas.

When I got involved in managing underage football, I thought that it would be for a year or two at most, but I got involved with a great bunch of young people and stayed with them until they had finished at Minor level. They won a number of trophies in the various grades and seeing them win was as good as anything that I had won myself. I’m sure I could say the same for Séamus Hughes, Brendan Coyne, Tom Staunton, Mike Kelly, Liam Burke, Tommy Heneghan, Damien Heneghan, Stephen Heneghan and Martin Staunton who also trained this team at various stages during this period. Some of the team have moved away, with Mike Kelly and Pádraig Philbin winning silverware in Chicago. Some have moved to other sports and some are now playing at Intermediate Level. It’s up to these lads now to keep the black and white flag flying and to create the next bit of history for our club.



Minor Summer League Champions 2010. Back: Stephen Heneghan (manager), Vinny Dolan, Martin Morrin, Tom Currid, Darren Kelly, James Grant, Martin Prendergast, Stephen Staunton, Tomás Seoighe, Michael Morrin (manager). Front: Seán Flannery, Martin Lally, Shane Staunton, Edward Gibbons, Pádraig Philbin (capt.), Aaron Conroy, Darren McNeely, Kevin Staunton, Eoin Staunton.





Tourmakeady Senior football team 1984. Back: Willie Feeley (trainer), Tommy Heneghan, Mattie Heneghan, Pat Naughton, Michael Morrin, Noel Joyce, Vincent Hennelly, Adrian Gavin. Front: Joe Dolan, Owen Heneghan, Brian Gibbons, Michael Horan, John Joyce (capt.), Jimmy Heneghan, Joe Joyce, Paul Gavin, Frank Lally.

The Tourmakeady Junior team in the West Mayo final 1995. Tommy Heneghan and Michael Morrin are the last two veterans from the winning team of 1982, both standing in their same habitual positions as in the top photograph. Amongst the new faces on the team of '95 are Tommy's sons, John and Joe, and his brother Stephen. Back: Tommy Heneghan, John O'Shea, Colm Ó Conghaile, Donal Burke, Michael Morrin, Michael John Walsh, Michael Staunton, Ciarán Walsh. Front: John Heneghan, Brian Hennelly, Ger Lydon, John Lydon (capt.), Joe Heneghan, Adrian Farragher, Stephen Heneghan.





## CHALLENGING TIMES: 1985 - 1990

From 1979, when Tourmakeady emerged out of Junior ranks, until 1984, in which year a wonderful new pitch was opened and several trophies were won, the rise of Tourmakeady GAA club was meteoric. In between, the mens team contested two county Intermediate championship finals (1981 & '82), gained promotion to Senior grade, and won the national Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta (1983) and Mayo 7-a-side Championship (1984). The ladies team, which formally affiliated for the first time in 1981, played in three Senior county finals in a row (1982-'84) and won the Senior League (1984) as well as several tournaments. At underage level, Tourmakeady won the U-16 "B" championship (1981) and a number of good young players were coming through.

But from the mid-1980s onwards, an economic recession took grip of the country and several small rural clubs in Mayo and elsewhere were wiped out or driven to the brink of existence. The tide of emigration took away many promising young players in those years. Mattie Heneghan, Paul Gavin and Joe Dolan went to England

where they became involved in the local GAA scene and all three played for the London county team. Mattie played with the Parnells club that went very close to beating Dr. Crokes of Killarney in the 1992 All-Ireland Club Championship quarter-final. Brian Gibbons emigrated to Chicago. Another to head that direction was Frankie Carr in 1988. Earlier that year, he played for Mayo Minors in the Connacht final.

To add to the club's woes, Seán Lydon and Mícheál Molloy (who both won All-Ireland medals in schools competitions in 1982) were forced to retire from football in their early twenties because of injuries.

By 1986, only six members of the team that had won the 1982 Intermediate championship remained on the panel. As a result of the loss of players through emigration and other reasons, the club often struggled to field teams at adult level during the latter half of the 1980s. The ladies football club was decimated and broke up. From 1986 until 1990, several Tourmakeady women played with Carnacon, including Bernie and

Eileen O'Neill and Cáit Morahan, who brought honour to the parish in 1987 by winning an All-Ireland Junior Ladies Football Championship with Mayo. The mens team managed to hold on, but only just. For the 1985 senior championship opening game against Mayo Gaels, a number of key players were summoned home from Chicago and London. On more than one occasion, juveniles from the

*Connacht Tribune, January 27, 1989*

### **Tourmakeady club hit by emigration**

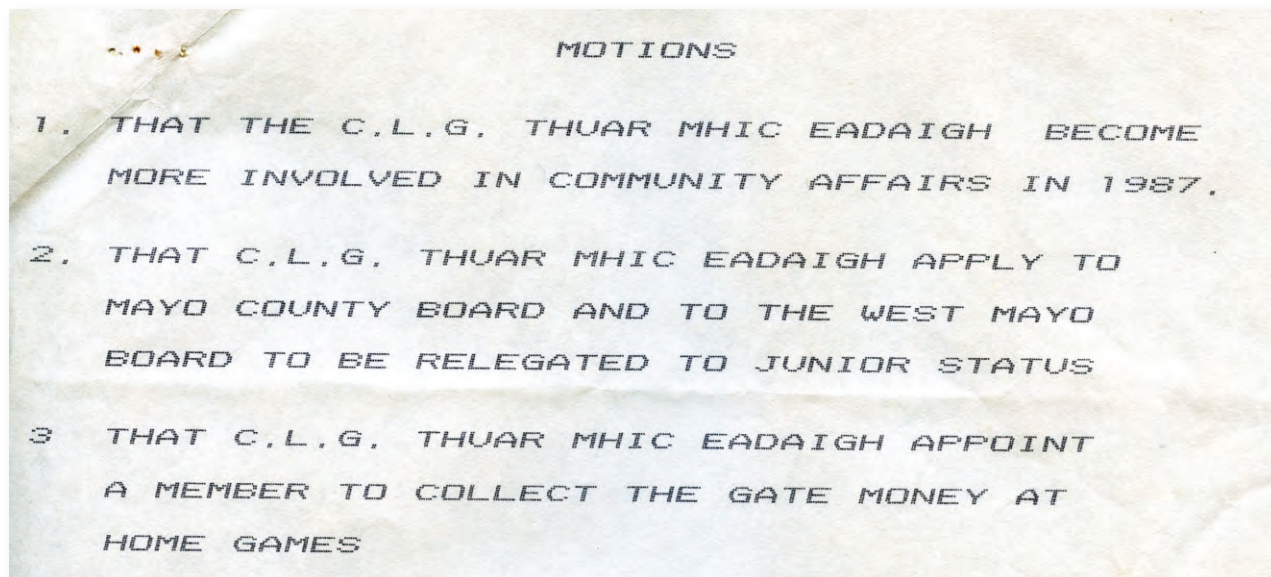
THE scourge of emigration has become the bugbear of GAA Clubs in recent times and the problem was very much on members minds, at the annual general meeting of Tourmakeady GAA Club, a West Mayo unit of the organisation, struggling for survival.

U-16 team and even younger were asked to play in adult competitions.

At the 1986 Annual General Meeting of Tourmakeady GAA club, a drastic motion was put before the members present: “That CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh apply to Mayo County Board and the West Mayo Board to be relegated to Junior status”. The motion was carried. The club could not realistically compete in the higher echelons of Mayo football and the only option was to voluntarily seek to be re-graded as a Junior club. Only seven years previously, Tourmakeady had finally managed to escape from the mire of Junior ranks after fourteen seasons trying to do so. Now the club was back where it started and it would take another twelve seasons (1987-1998) to return to Intermediate ranks. The difference this time, as compared to when things began in 1965, was that modern playing facilities were in place, a proud footballing tradition had been established, and

underage development structures were up and running.

Between 1986 and 1989, the club teetered very close to non-existence and this is reflected in the fact that no photographs of Tourmakeady adult teams from these years were discovered during the course of researching this book. In 1987, the Tourmakeady Juniors captained by Michael Morrin reached the West Mayo semi-final, but that was as good as things got. In 1988, Tourmakeady failed to fulfill a number of league fixtures because of low numbers. The Mayo County Board penalised the club by expelling the team from the league and imposing a hefty fine. In the *Mayo GAA Yearbook 1989*, the activities of the year were euphemistically summed up by saying that “Tourmakeady GAA club had a rather relaxed year on the football fields”. The Junior team won just one game that year – a surprise victory over the West Mayo champions, Louisburgh.



Motions submitted to Tourmakeady GAA Club's Annual General Meeting in 1986



Perhaps the easy option at the time would have been for Tourmakeady GAA club to fold up or amalgamate, and indeed that choice was debated. But the members of the club showed tremendous resilience, pride and determination to keep the black and white flag flying. There may be no cups or medals to show from those years, but it was a tremendous victory for the club to come through that turbulent period and still be afloat. Great credit must go to the officials, managers and players of that era. They deserve as much respect as the original founders of the club because were it not for their persistence, we might not be now celebrating our golden jubilee year.

A beacon of hope arrived in 1987 when the U-12 team won the county championship. Several of those young players later went on to make important contributions as members of the Junior and Intermediate championship winning teams of 1998, 2006 and 2010.

In spite of the ongoing recession, fundraising continued in an effort to clear the outstanding debts on Páirc Naomh Muire. Mayo and Kerry played on the opening day in July 1984 and they returned again in May 1986. It was a crowd-puller. Kerry were the All-Ireland champions and Mayo had taken Dublin to a replay in the All-Ireland semi-final the previous August. The game itself was a disappointment but the gate receipts were

not. A second Tourmakeady “Mayor” campaign in 1988, following on the back of a previously successful campaign in 1983, raised a further £6,500 and this cleared payment on the development project.

By 1990, a wave of optimism was gathering over the country. Some commentators have suggested that the performances of “Jack’s Army” at the Italia ’90 soccer World Cup gave Ireland an injection of national confidence that ignited the economic recovery. Whatever the reason, there was a sense that the worst was over and that things were beginning to pick up again. In Tourmakeady, the general mood had also improved and prospects looked better. Gone were the gloomy headlines of *Waterfall* ’88 (“Emigration threatens survival of local GAA club”) and *Waterfall* ’89 (“Disappointing GAA year”), and they were replaced in *Waterfall* ’90 by upbeat talk of a “Remarkable year for Tourmakeady GAA Club”. While as yet there was little to celebrate on the field of play, the newly-elected chairman Pádraig de Búrca and his committee succeeded in lifting the spirits of the community by organising a number of novel social events. The Junior team enjoyed a decent run in the league in 1990 and it was remarked in *Waterfall* that “a bit more effort from the boys in ’91 and we may well see major honours coming across Srah Bridge”. The storm had passed and brighter days were soon to come.



On the occasion of the visit of the Kerry and Mayo teams to Páirc Naomh Muire on Sunday, May 11, 1986, Gaeltarra Éireann presented Aran sweaters to both sets of players. Pictured are Michael John Casey, Seán Ó Sé, Mick O'Dwyer (Kerry), Jack O'Shea (Kerry capt.), Fr. Noel Forde, T.J. Kilgallon (Mayo capt.), and Kevin O'Toole.  
© Photo: Frank Dolan.



A section of the large crowd that attended the Mayo versus Kerry challenge game in Páirc Naomh Muire on May 11, 1986. This was a repeat of the 1984 park opening encounter and ended in a draw. Funds raised helped to repay the debt on the pitch and clubhouse development project. © Photo: Frank Dolan.



## "STRICTLY PEN TO PAPER"

*Michael John Casey reminisces on his years in Tourmakeady GAA...*



It was a great honour to be asked to write a short piece for this great book. There is a song title "Twenty One Years is a Mighty Long Time". Fifty years is a lifetime, especially when one can remember most of it. First of all I sincerely and truly

congratulate Tourmakeady GAA Club on its Golden Anniversary and here's to many more happy and sporting years in the famous colours of Black and White.

My article will be "strictly pen to paper" because all the honours, titles and players will be well dealt with in other articles. In 1969, having just commenced working at Gaeltarra Éireann at the young age of 16, the late Tomás O'Toole invited me on to the Tourmakeady GAA Committee and there I am to date. I have seen many changes: much doom and gloom; life escapes; jail threats, etc. I have seen the great transitions from Heaney's Field to Páirc Naomh Muire. Heaney's Field, where players played their hearts out and cleaned up in the nearby stream, hosted the 21 day-and-night-long Féile Thuar Mhic Eadaigh with top class Irish bands such as Planxty, The Chieftains, Dublin City Ramblers and The Sands

Family in concerts which were always and ever sold out.

Our thoughts go now to Mary Coyne and Mary Forde, both R.I.P plus the Hostel girls who fed four to six teams each night in the Hall during the Féile. Another outstanding memory on final night were the 1100 people who paid to get into Tourmakeady Hall, many of whom had stood by the side door later; "Health & Safety" was never heard of. Also involved at the time of obtaining Páirc Naomh Muire was the Kerry Senior team who came to open same; another great time was erecting the spectator stand and the fencing around the pitch, again we convinced the Kerry



The Ladies Committee of Tourmakeady GAA at the club's dinner dance in January 1982. From left: Kathleen Molloy, Maureen Coyne, Mary Heneghan, Mary Coyne RIP, Maureen Heneghan, Mary Gibbons.

team to come back; a handful of hard working Committee members were able to join all these dots, some of whom played as well. During those years we never failed in getting to the Comórtas Péile competition either in Kerry, Cork, Meath, Galway or Donegal.

Here are just a few flashback memories. On a round-about in Sligo, with three rented cars en route from Tourmakeady to Donegal, on the third circle of same roundabout a child ran onto the road and hit my car! “Brakes to the Tar”, the child was under the front bumper, everyone was speechless, the mother of the child appears, pulls the child out from under the car and beats her and apologises to me. Such relief, it wouldn’t happen now! I clearly remember that Car Reg. 11Z 1150 in front of me. On our return from the same Comórtas, in double checking our suitcases, one of our crew found a live hen in his case which belonged to the farm house in Donegal. It was always a wonderful weekend and it is coming to Tourmakeady for the first time in 2017.

A jail threat also came my way in later years, the O.P.W. had plans to build a Garda Barracks in the centre of the present GAA car park. The chairman of the day, a well known Tommy Heneghan and mé féin, were served with all kinds of actions. At 9.00am on a Monday morning, the GAA pitch was going to be closed up and work was to begin on the Barracks. We fought until 2 or 3 in the morning from Castlebar to Ballyhaunis until we fought them off; Mountjoy was mentioned to one of us by phone “if we didn’t sort it out”, but again

the late Tomás O’Toole with some shareholders of the Fairgreen, plus the GAA Connacht Council, saved all of us. Fundraising was a nightmare, until we started the Lotto, which was a dream-maker. Tommy Heneghan, Frank Lally and mé féin did every Saturday for two years non-stop with an income of £500-£550 weekly. We had two wonderful Mayoral elections; Willie Feeley and later Vincent Hennelly were crowned “Mayor of Tourmakeady”.

Another huge event was when 74 boys and girls, young and not so young toured the U.S.A. On Monday August 6th 1979 Shannon was buzzing when the Tourmakeady group boarded that EI125



Michael John Casey and Brian Gibbons at Tourmakeady GAA Dinner Dance, March 1985.



flight. It was like a dream as we touched down to hundreds of waiting folk in O'Hare Airport. With conditions in the high 80's, the Tourmakeady team played five and won all five games in the Chicago and Detroit trip. Just another memory, the AmTrak train ran dry (not of diesel) for the first time ever between Chicago to Detroit. It was a great trip, guests of the Mayor of Chicago, fantastic functions. We came back home on August 23rd where bonfires blazed. Two weeks later, Tourmakeady won their first ever West Mayo title

in Castlebar, followed by the County title on November 4th. You must have decked it by now? The 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance is on the 36th anniversary of that departure date to Chicago, a great coincidence, Thursday August 6th 2015.

Well that is only a touch of my memories, all off the field. Some day in the next 10 years all my memoirs will appear in a novel, hopefully!! My greetings to you all and thanks to everyone for my time spent in the GAA.



James Melvin and Michael John Casey at the Tuar Mhic Éadaigh v Ballyhaunis Intermediate Championship game in Páirc Naomh Muire on Sunday June 22, 2014. © Photo: Conor McKeown.

### A REVIVAL IN FORTUNES: 1991 - 1995



Ollie Dillon presents the Junior Horan Cup to Brian Gibbons, year unidentified (possibly 1993).



Tourmakeady captain Pat Walsh accepts the Junior Horan Cup from Seán Horan, 1994.

1991 saw the beginning of an upturn in the fortunes of the Tourmakeady Juniors. It was the year that Brian Gibbons returned from Chicago and he played his part in helping the team gain promotion to Division 3 of the league after several years in Division 4. Earlier that season, they won the Junior Horan Cup tournament by beating Islandeady in the final. 1991 was also a very significant year for Tourmakeady ladies football because the local club was re-established for the first time since 1985, in the absence of which Tourmakeady girls had played with Carnacon. At U-16 level, Adrian Farragher led his team to victory in the O'Connor Cup and in an emotional acceptance speech he said that they "played their hearts out" in memory of their team mate, Pádraic

Mulroe, who died suddenly in Páirc Naomh Muire on July 16th, 1991.

The following season, veteran Tommy Heneghan was in great form with the Juniors but it was noted in the *Waterfall* that "perhaps a little more dedication from the younger players of the parish would make a difference". Despite a bad run in the championship, the club managed to hold on in Division 3 of the league. The Junior Horan Cup was relinquished to Breaffy in the final and Achill beat Tourmakeady by a point in the Mayo Junior Comórtas qualifier. The ladies team reached the final of the Junior league but fell to Westport by a single point after a replay. On the underage scene, things were looking promising as all the teams



reached the latter stages of their competitions. Treanlaur National School succeeded in capturing their first ever divisional title with Damien Heneghan, Tom and Brian Naughton, Mícheál O'Neill, and Kathleen Ann Heneghan to the fore, all of whom who would go on to become key players for the club's adult teams a few years later.

In 1993, the Junior team regained the Horan Cup but otherwise had an uneventful year. The Ladies made progress from the previous season by reaching the league and championship finals, but lost very narrowly to neighbours Ballinrobe in both. Adrian Farragher played for the Mayo Minor

team that reached the Connacht final. In ladies football, Bernie O'Neill captained Mayo to an All-Ireland Senior B Championship title and was awarded an All-Star for her outstanding performances at full back. The Tourmakeady U-12 team, coached by Jim Callaghan and Pat Naughton, won the West Mayo "B" title against a fancied Breaffy side. Srah National School girls also made their own piece of history by sweeping to a comprehensive win over Geesala in the Cumann na mBunscol 7-a-side County Final.

Pat Walsh was captain of Tourmakeady Juniors in 1994. On May 2nd in Clogher, his team beat



Junior Horan Cup Winners 1991. From left: Jim Callaghan, Frank Lally, Ger Lydon, Pat Naughton, Seán Horan (Ballintubber GAA), John Ronan, Michael John Walsh (Tourmakeady captain), Michael O'Malley, Tommy Heneghan, Michael Walsh, Michael Morrin, John Lydon, Eddie Gibbons.





Michael Whelan and Liam de Búrca in action in the 1993 Championship against Castlebar Mitchels

Islandeedy to retain the Horan Cup. Further success came in the Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh tournament where the Juniors won the Menrad Cup. The Ladies team under the management of Ciarán Walsh and Colm Ó Conghaile had comprehensive victories over Carnacon in both the Junior Championship final (1-15 to 2-3) and Junior League final (6-13 to 0-4) to achieve the double for the first time in the club's history. With the green and red, Tommy Heneghan won a Masters All-Ireland medal and Colm Ó Conghaile wore the same No. 5 jersey for the Mayo Minors as Adrian Farragher had done the

previous year. Kathleen Ann Heneghan, Lorraine O'Neill, and Martha and Aoife Ní Mháille won an U-14 All-Ireland title.

The 1995 season saw Tourmakeady back in a West Mayo Junior final for the first time in 16 years after they overcame favourites Castlebar by 0-10 to 1-6 in the semi-final. They lost narrowly to eventual county champions Achill in the final. Tommy Heneghan made history by becoming the first Tourmakeady man to play in three West Mayo Junior finals (1972, 1979, 1995), although many of his younger team mates on the '95 team would soon emulate this achievement by playing in the 1997 and 1998 finals. Tommy also capped off the year by winning another Masters All-Ireland medal with Mayo. Again, the under-age teams showed well in their respective competitions although ultimate honours eluded them.

By 1995, Tourmakeady Juniors had a new young team. The work invested in underage development was beginning to reap dividends and it would not be much longer until success followed at adult level.



Tommy Heneghan played in the West Mayo Junior Finals in 1972 (left), 1979 (centre) and 1995 (right).





Michael John Casey presents Ger Lydon with the man-of-the-match award after Tourmakeady beat Mayo O-40s in the 1995 Gaeltarra Tournament. Also in the picture are Michael Lydon (at left) and John Callan (club president)



John Lydon accepts the Menrad Cup, 1995



Tourmakeady Junior football team and management at the club dinner dance in Tourmakeady Hall, 1994. Back: Tommy Heneghan, Michael John Walsh, Brian Gibbons, John Lydon, Michael Whelan, Marty Dermody, Stephen Ronan, John Heneghan, \_\_\_, Michael Staunton, Pat Burke, Stephen Heneghan, Ciarán Walsh, Frank Lally. Front: John Power, Joe Heneghan, Ger Lydon, Terence McCay, Pat Walsh, John O'Shea, Raymond Prendergast, David Lally, Colm Ó Conghaile.





Junior Horan Cup Winners 1994. Back: Frank Lally, John Ronan, Michael Staunton, Michael Whelan, Colm Ó Conghaile, Stephen Heneghan, John Lydon, Adrian Farragher, Michael John Walsh, Andrew Lally, Stephen Ronan, Tommy Heneghan, John Power. Front: John Heneghan, Joe Heneghan, Brian Hennelly, Pat Walsh, Ger Lydon, Raymond Prendergast, Ciarán Walsh, John O'Shea.

The boys of '95 ... taken in Westport after beating Castlebar in the 1995 West Mayo JFC semi-final. Back: Tommy Heneghan, Colm Ó Conghaile, Michael Whelan, Michael Morrin, Stephen Heneghan, Adrian Farragher, Ger Lydon, Michael Staunton. Front: Ciarán Walsh, John Heneghan, Andrew Lally, John Lydon, Joe Heneghan, Brian Hennelly, Michael John Walsh. Photo: Tommy Eibrand.





# ONE LIFE, ONE CLUB: MICHAEL JOHN WALSH LOOKS BACK ON HIS 26 YEAR CAREER

*by Willie McHugh*



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Michael John Walsh makes a brilliant catch in the Mayo Intermediate Football Championship against Castlebar in 2004. © Photo: Michael Donnelly

There was a lot going down in the Ireland of 1987. The National Lottery was launched. Stephen Roche won the Tour de France, U2 released the Joshua Tree album and even then Big Tom was still the king. And here in Mayo, Michael John Walsh made his debut with the Tourmakeady junior footballers.

Last year Michael John Walsh called time. He'd clocked up high mileage. Twenty six years he played in the black strip. A league game against Ballyhaunis was his swan song. A historic one at that. Tourmakeady gained promotion to Division 1A of the Mayo Senior League for the first time in the club's history. He's an earnest enough sort of lad. Passionate about football. Always has been. No problem getting fit either. Traipsing the rugged terrain to herd sheep on the hill fields of his Derryveeney farm saw to that. He needed to be in good shape. A lad could age very quickly playing for Tourmakeady because the steel birds flying to Chicago drain the lifeblood of the region.

"When I started playing there was a fella down the road here, Michael Meenaghan, Dickie Rock we used to call him. He said to me, 'Michael John, you're the youngest lad on the team now but in a few short years you'll be the oldest'. That's how things were. A few lads coming through, and just when we thought we had a team, we lost a few more. And now it's happening on an even bigger scale again." Conditions were a bit archaic too. "We played in the old field then and toggged in the shed behind the school. The heavens supplied any showers we had. But we enjoyed it. The West Mayo Championship was the big thing and we had The Gaeltarra Éireann Cup and the Horan Cup tournament in Ballintubber."

Albeit a tad slow, success eventually arrived.



Michael John Walsh, Jack Grimes, and John Heneghan with the Sweeney Cup at Tourmakeady GAA Club dinner dance, January 2011

"Tourmakeady made the big breakthrough in 1998. We won the West Mayo Junior and went on to win the county and Connacht Club Championship that year." But it came at a price for Michael John. "It was the only year I missed football through injury. I broke my leg in the West Mayo Junior against Achill and I was out for ten weeks. But I mended and came on in the county final. After that things went downhill again and I often thought about packing it up entirely but then I'd give it another year."

His perseverance was rewarded in 2006. Tourmakeady were back on the winner's podium again. "We won a county Intermediate that year, and beat our great rivals Parke in the final. That was the highlight of my career. Pat Burke was manager and Jack Grimes was trainer. Jack was a tough taskmaster and if you missed training you





M.J. Walsh (No. 8) in action for Mayo in the 2009 All-Ireland Masters Final v Tyrone

made up for it the next night. But he took us to where we wanted to go. We won the Intermediate again in 2010 and, while it was also very special the 2006 medal is the one I'll always cherish."

They also serve those who stand and wait, and the county callup came via Kenneth Mortimer's invite to join the over-40 panel in 2009. "Kenneth gave me my only Mayo jersey. Jaysus, he was on the ball. On the very day I turned forty I got a phone call from him. I thought it was one of the lads here messing because they're hoors like that. I hung up on him but luckily he rang me again a few nights later and I got involved. I ended up with an All-Ireland medal and it was great to win it. We beat Dublin in the semi-final and Tyrone in the final."

He was always a defender. As regards forwards, he found difficulty in marking two in particular come to mind. "I had some great battles with Austin O'Malley of Louisburgh. Some days I got the better of him and vice versa. Just when you thought you had him he'd let fly and shoot on sight. He was a forward I always admired. In later years I had some good tussles with Andy Moran. Andy is a lovely footballer and there was no messing. He just gets on with it. Unfortunately we never played Crossmolina because I'd love to have pitted myself against Ciarán McDonald. He's a class player and I'd like to have seen how I'd have fared on him. Not too good I'd say because there aren't many out there who could keep McDonald quiet. No one I suppose. In Tourmakeady I could never handle my own brother Ciarán. He'd sidestep me and then he was gone and I could never pin him down but maybe that's because we're brothers. And Joe Heneghan was another. God I hated marking him. He'd put you off what you should be concentrating on and that used to vex me. Joe's a good footballer too. One thing I hated was players lipping during a game. The better players like Austin or Andy never did that. And you never saw McDonald at it either. I like lads who play



M.J. Walsh: "I could never handle my own brother Ciarán. He'd sidestep me and then he was gone." In this action sequence, Ciarán Walsh dummies a Castlebar Mitchels defender in their Mayo Intermediate Championship clash at MacHale Park on July 4, 2004. © Photos: Michael Donnelly

the game and get on with it. Talk all you want afterwards."

He finished his playing days leaving Tourmakeady at the main portal. His team mates didn't forget Michael John's input the afternoon they first crossed the threshold to the inner sanctum of Mayo football (Senior League Division 1A). Their gesture took him completely by surprise. "I wasn't going to go over to the game against Claremorris. I was just out of hospital the previous Friday after surgery on my hand. My wife Bridie and the kids, Rachel and Jamie, cajoled me to go but they were in on the plot too. The club presented me with a framed souvenir jersey. It's something I will always appreciate. Brendan [Prendergast] said a few words and he made sure I wasn't going to get a swelled head either. He described one of the very few points I got for Tourmakeady as a 'watery auld score'."

The man who always toggled with one sock up and one sock down hasn't gone away. At evening time you'll find him in the field he knows best



Presentation to Michael John Walsh, March 2012

tutoring the latest crop of under-12 footballers. From his Derryveeney hall door a half middling' cast off could land bait on the waters of Lough Mask. But he never fished in his life. No time. He's only ever been hooked on football. And it never aged him.

*This article originally appeared in the Mayo News on May 7, 2013 and is reprinted by kind permission of the editor.*





The Tuair Mhic Éadaigh U-12 team, coached by Michael John Walsh and Michael Horan, that beat Charlestown by 6-21 to 5-2 in the county semi-final at Páirc Naomh Muire on July 7, 2014. Back: Michael Horan, Jessica Higgins, Laura Gibbons, Seán O'Brien, Lee Jennings, Seán Heneghan, Máirtín Carr, Éamon Heneghan, Eoin Egan, Finn Conoboy, Mark Harrington, Ben Horan, Maitiú MacGiobúin, Michael John Walsh. Front: Aoife Lally, Daithí Conlon, Johnny Granahan, Brandon Francis-Henry, Jamie Walsh, Conall Mac Gabhann, Seán Durkin, Aaron Jennings, Louis Hennessy, Oisín Barry, Jack de Búrca.

# INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM: 1996 - 2000

***“For me, 1998 was by far the highlight of my football career. To be fortunate enough to be captain in the same year that the club wins the county and provincial championship, and to be part of a team of outstanding footballers and personalities. A dream come true !”***

*– Adrian Farragher*

1996 was a year of “so near but yet so far” as several teams got to finals but only the U-16s brought home silverware. After reaching the West Mayo final in 1995, hopes were high that the Junior team would go a step further in 1996 but they lost at the semi-final stage to Breaffy. Having held the Junior Horan Cup for the previous three years, it was surrendered to Parke on Easter Monday. The Senior Ladies reached their League final but fell to Hollymount by 3-13 to 2-9. The U-14s had a good year but were unfortunate to lose both the West Mayo final and the county league final. The U-16s beat Achill by two points in the West Mayo final, in which Damien Heneghan contributed 3-1 of his side’s total of 3-3. Later in the year, the U-16s also won the O’Connor Cup with a 2-16 to 0-4 win over Ballintubber. The Minors went under to Parke in the West Mayo final by 1-5 to 0-4. Coláiste Muire Senior boys, in their first ever Connacht final, lost a thrilling contest to Mohill.

In 1997, the Juniors were back in the West Mayo final. In a tight, physical encounter, Parke emerged as winners by 1-10 to 0-9. The Ladies team lost in the championship to Hollymount but had a good run in the league. The U-12s won the West Mayo championship, easily overcoming the challenge of

Parke in the final. The Minors lost to Westport by a single point in the West Mayo final but made up for it by winning the league with a 3-17 to 2-4 victory against Ardagh.

The girls of Coláiste Muire made history on February 28th 1997 when they defeated Banada Abbey, Tourlestrane by 3-10 to 4-3 to win the Connacht Senior “A” Championship for the first time. Of the starting fifteen on the Coláiste team, eleven were members of CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh and nine had played at inter-county level. They beat Enniskillen in the semi-final but lost narrowly against Spanish Point (Clare) in the All-Ireland final. Coláiste Muire renewed rivalry with Banada Abbey in the Connacht finals of 1998 and 1999 but the south Sligo girls edged through on both occasions. 1997 was also a memorable year for the Coláiste Muire Junior “D” boys, who won their Connacht final with a four-point win over St. Joseph’s, Charlestown. A second successive Junior “D” boys Connacht title arrived in 1998 by virtue of a 3-12 to 0-8 defeat of St. Clare’s, Manorhamilton. The Senior “D” boys made it a double when they beat St. Mary’s, Ballygar in the Connacht final on April 26th in Tuam.

1998 was a breakthrough year for Tourmakeady Juniors. Having lost the West Mayo finals of ’95 and



'97 and the semi-final of '96 to the eventual county champions, success came at last on September 20th when Tourmakeady beat Westport by 1-8 to 1-5 on a very hot day. Tourmakeady's star player was Ciarán Walsh who contributed six points, including



Connacht Champions! Adrian Farragher lifts the cup after his team won the Connacht Junior Final at Hyde Park on March 21, 1999.

a free kick from over 50 yards against the wind. In the semi-final, Tourmakeady overcame the favourites Moy Davitts to set up a showdown against Crossmolina. In a very close contest played in Ballinrobe on November 8th, Tourmakeady brought home the Pete O'Donnell Cup for the first time since 1979. It was a very young Tourmakeady team; the oldest player on the field that day was 24 years of age.

Following on in 1999, Tourmakeady won the inaugural Connacht Junior Football Championship by beating Claregalway by 0-11 to 1-1 in Hyde Park in March. The game was played under experimental rules. A third trophy in quick succession was added to the club's haul with victory in the U-21 "B" county final against Ballaghaderreen on May 3rd. The U-14 team coached by Jim Callaghan also brought home honours in 1999 by winning the county league. In their first year in the Intermediate Championship since 1982, Tourmakeady made a first round exit but the team fared well in the league and won promotion to Division 2.

In very unpleasant conditions, Tourmakeady beat Kilmaine on April 24th 2000 to win the Senior Horan Cup for the second time in the club's history (the previous win came in 1984). At the national Comórtas finals hosted by Kiltane, Tourmakeady reached the Junior decider but lost disappointingly to Mícheál Breathnachs. In the 2000 Intermediate championship, Tourmakeady again fell at the first hurdle. Towards the end of the year, the U-20 team won the West Mayo championship with a 1-12 to 0-11 win over Breaffy.



West Mayo and County Junior Football Champions 1998, pictured before the West final against Westport. Back: David Gibbons, John Lydon, Pat Heneghan, James O'Neill, John Heneghan, Seán Folan, Ciarán Walsh. Front: Damien Heneghan, Michael Staunton, Brendan Prendergast, Stephen Heneghan, Adrian Farragher, Joe Heneghan, Ger Lydon, Tom Naughton.

## Mayo Junior Football Championship Final 1998 TOURMAKEADY TRIUMPH AFTER NINETEEN YEARS

Tourmakeady 1-9 Crossmolina 0-11

After a 19 year wait the glory days for Tourmakeady football returned on Sunday last when they defeated a very spirited Crossmolina team to clinch the Mayo Junior 'A' title at a splendidly appointed Flanagan Park, Ballinrobe. Played before an attendance of around 1500, this was a very hard fought and exciting county final. Throughout the hour there was some patches of

brilliant football and some delightful points scored by both sides. Yet, it was the opening score (a goal) of the game which made the difference between winning and losing at the final whistle.

Tourmakeady laid the foundation for their victory in the first half. Aided by the strong wind they made the most of their chances and went in at the break with a six point advantage. Indeed, out



of a total of ten shots on goal in the opening half they scored 1-8. At the end they had to dig deep into their reserves to secure their narrow but worthy victory.

Tourmakeady got off to a dream start when within two minutes of the throw-in they had the ball in the back of the Crossmolina net. It came about when a long ball into the Crossmolina goal area by Seán Folan fell into the path of full-forward, Ciarán Walsh, who made the most of his chance as he first-timed the ball past the helpless Declan Hughes.

Following this opening goal, both sides missed a few good chances before Crossmolina opened their account with a point from a free by John Gerard Loftus in the 5th minute. However, for the next ten minutes it was all Tourmakeady. With John Lydon and John Heneghan winning the exchanges at midfield, a lot of the game was now being played in the Crossmolina half. Tourmakeady's opening point of the game came in the 10th minute when Ciarán Walsh pointed a 45 metre free. A minute later, centre-half back Brendan Prendergast extended their lead with a well-taken point from forty yards out. Just at the end of the first quarter, the West Mayo side went five points in front after Seán Folan soloed a full fifty yards with the ball before kicking a great point.

In the second quarter Crossmolina got more into the game and indeed took control for long periods. In a six minute spell from the 17th to the 23rd minute they scored three unanswered points to leave just two points between the teams. Just when it seemed that the Deel Rovers side had weathered the Tourmakeady storm, the boys from

the West hit back gain. Midfielder John Heneghan lifted the siege with a point from forty yards in the 25th minute. This score was quickly followed by two brilliant points from left-half-back and captain, Adrian Farragher. Although Gabriel Walsh replied with a point from a free for Crossmolina, it was Tourmakeady who finished the half with two more points. The first came from a Ciarán Walsh free and the second a splendid effort from Seán Folan. This left the West Mayo side 1-8 to 0-5 up at the break.

Although six points down, many felt that Crossmolina who would have the strong wind on their backs for the second period were far from out of the game. How right they were as they fought tooth and nail and bit by bit they cut into the Tourmakeady lead. Three minutes into the half, corner-back Charlie Cawley showed the forwards how it should be done when he pointed from forty yards. Two minutes later the other Crossmolina corner-back, David O'Donnell went upfield and sent over a delightful point. Crossmolina were really back in the game in the 38th minute when Declan Gallagher cut the deficit to three with a marvellous point from fifty yards.

Crossmolina had a great chance of a goal in the 42nd minute when Barry Loftus burst through the Tourmakeady defence. However, with only goalkeeper, James O'Neill to beat, Loftus could only watch in agony as his chipped shot went over the bar.

Despite Crossmolina's dominance, Tourmakeady had a number of good scoring chances but failed to convert them. However, the game continued to be played at a fierce pace with both sides trying very hard to carve out the scores

that would win the day. In the 50th minute Declan Gallagher scored his second point of the game to leave just one between the sides. When Gabriel Walsh brilliantly pointed a thirty-five yards free from near the sideline to leave the sides level in the 53rd minute it looked as if the cup would be going North. Two minutes later however, Tourmakeady were back in front when Ciarán Walsh pointed a twenty-one yards free. It was Tourmakeady's only score of the half but it proved to be the match winner. In the last few minutes Crossmolina tried everything to get the equaliser but failed to find the target.

At the end of the day Tourmakeady who fought very hard throughout were the deserving winners. They had five-star performers in James O'Neill (goals), backs Stephen Heneghan, Brendan

Prendergast, and Adrian Farragher, John Lydon and John Heneghan at midfield, and Seán Folan, Joe Heneghan, Ciarán Walsh and Michael Staunton in attack.

Tourmakeady: James O'Neill, Pat Heneghan, Stephen Heneghan, Ger Lydon, David Gibbons, Brendan Prendergast (0-1), Adrian Farragher (0-2), John Lydon, John Heneghan (0-1), Seán Folan (0-2), Tom Naughton, Joe Heneghan, Damien Heneghan, Ciaran Walsh (1-3), Michael Staunton. Subs used: Michael James Meenaghan for Lydon, Brian Naughton for Damien Heneghan and Michael John Walsh for David Gibbons.

*Based on an article by Aiden Henry in the Connaught Telegraph, November 11, 1998*

November 8, 1998. After a 16 year wait, Tourmakeady are County Champions again.

Martin and Michael Morrin, Michael Meenaghan, Seán Ó Sé and Frank Lally enjoy getting their hands on the Mayo Junior Championship Cup after the 1998 county final in Ballinrobe.







Tourmakeady GAA Club Annual Dinner Dance at the Welcome Inn Hotel, Castlebar, January 1999. From left: Michael John Casey (PRO), Tommy Heneghan (Chairman), Sinéad Ní Mháille (All-Ireland Cailín Gaelach), Jim Callaghan (Vice President), Brian Gibbons (Secretary). On the table is the impressive haul of trophies won by Tourmakeady teams in 1998.



Tourmakeady captains of successful club, school, and county teams 1998. From left: Ruairí Conroy (Coláiste Muire Senior Boys, Connacht Champions), Brendan Prendergast (Mayo Minors, Connacht League Champions), Kathleen Ann Heneghan (Mayo Ladies Minors, Connacht Champions & All-Ireland Finalists), Adrian Farragher (Tourmakeady Juniors, Mayo Champions), Aislinn Donoghue (Coláiste Muire Senior Girls, Connacht Finalists), Brian Naughton (Mayo U-16s, Connacht Champions Ted Webb Cup), John Myles Joyce (Coláiste Muire Junior Boys, Connacht Champions).

## Mayo U-21 “B” Football Championship Final 1999

# TOURMAKEADY ARE THRILLER WINNERS

Tourmakeady 1-10 Ballaghaderreen 0-11



1999 County U-21 “B” Champions. Back: Pat Naughton (Manager), Adrian Lally, Stephen O’Neill, Tomás McHale, John Farragher, Mícheál O’Neill, Danny Lydon, Tom Ronan, John Myles Joyce, Mícheál Lally, Rory Gibbons, Tommy Heneghan (Manager). Middle: Adrian Dolan, Damien Heneghan, Michael James Meenaghan, Brendan Prendergast, David Gibbons (captain), Brian Naughton, Rory Conroy, Tom Naughton. Front: Danny Cox, Anthony Lydon, Anthony O’Neill, David Lydon.

Walk tall, if your allegiance is to Tourmakeady GAA Club. The county and provincial junior successes of last year were augmented at sunny Flanagan Park, Ballinrobe, on Monday when the club's under-21 footballers prevailed in a thrilling final.

Four games were played at the Ballinrobe venue

on Sunday and Monday, including an inter-county tie between Mayo and Donegal, and this one surpassed all of them for sheer excitement and competitiveness. The outcome was in doubt until the last kick and had Barry McKenzie's shot from the right corner gone under the bar, Ballaghaderreen would have been celebrating.



Tourmakeady's success was all the more notable as they had to cope with prolonged periods of intense pressure. They never became ruffled and their controlled approach stood them in good stead. Tactically, their forward play was superior to Ballaghaderreen's which tended to be individualistic at times, and better use was made of fewer chances.

Tourmakeady faces were smiling in the opening minutes with the scoreboard crediting them with 1-1 after only four minutes. John Farragher, alive to a quickly taken free, got the goal, and Adrian Dolan's points was the culmination of good play by a number of his colleagues.

Unexpectedly, Tourmakeady did not maintain that early impetus and for the next fifteen minutes, the main thrust of the action centred in the Tourmakeady half of the field. Scores were hard to come by, however, and the 19th minute elapsed before a Luke Geever point balanced matters.

Placekicker Barry McKenzie edged the East Mayo side ahead for the first time a minute later, but in the closing stages of the half the Tourmakeady forwards were given an opportunity to prove their worth again. There was no goal on this occasion but points from Tom Naughton, the lively Damien Heneghan, and Tom Ronan left Ballaghaderreen trailing by 1-4 to 0-5 at the interval.

The resumption of the action was marked by an exchange of points between Tourmakeady's talented teenager, Brian Naughton, and Barry McKenzie. More Ballaghaderreen pressure ensued but splendid defending by Rory Conroy, Brendan Prendergast, the energetic Michael James Meenaghan and David Gibbons ensured that it

bore little fruit. The next score, very much against the run of play, was a Tourmakeady point scored by their captain David Gibbons, following a pass from Brian Naughton who was making more and more of an impact.

Ballaghaderreen were eventually rewarded for their efforts in the form of three points, two by Barry McKenzie and the other from substitute, Tom Colleran. Deadlock now prevailed, with twelve minutes remaining and vocal support was not lacking from the respective fans. Tourmakeady responded first, with the Naughton duo working Tourmakeady in attack the ball between the posts. Cool heads in the Tourmakeady backline thwarted a number of Ballaghaderreen attacks before Barry McKenzie pointed a free. Points by Tom Ronan and Adrian Dolan evoked further Tourmakeady cheers and Ballaghaderreen's bid for a last gasp match winner went askew when Barry McKenzie's shot sailed over the bar.

Tourmakeady: D. Lydon; R. Conroy; M.J. Meenaghan; D. Gibbons (0-1); B. Prendergast; J. Joyce; M. O'Neill; T. Ronan (0-2); A. Dolan (0-2); T. Naughton (0-2); J. Farragher (1-0); D. Heneghan (0-1); B. Naughton (0-2).

Ballaghaderreen: P. Towey; T. Regan; G. Conway; B. Tansey; N. Towey; A. Roddy (0-1); R. Conway (0-1); B. Colleran; M. O'Gara; A. Rushe; J. Quinn; L. Geever (0-1); B. McKenzie (0-7). Sub.: T. Colleran (0-1) for Rushe.

Referee: Martin Murphy (Ballinrobe).

*From the Mayo News, May 5, 1999*

## Connacht Junior Football Championship Final 1999

# FIZZY TOURMAK' LEAVE CLAREGALWAY DIZZY

Tourmakeady 0-11 Claregalway 1-1



Kevin O'Toole, Joe Mulroe and John Gibbons pop the champagne following Tourmakeady's victory in the Connacht Junior Final at Hyde Park on Sunday March 21, 1999. Photo: Tommy Eibrand.

Champagne corks were popped at Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon, on Sunday afternoon as Tourmakeady G.A.A. Club celebrated another historic chapter. For the third year in succession, a club from West Mayo has captured the province's premier junior trophy and Tom Heneghan's men

completed their achievement in some style. Thoroughly dominant from start to finish, they played with a consummate confidence which brought to an appropriate climax a one hundred percent campaign.



Having previously defeated their Galway opponents comfortably, the Gaeltacht club must have felt twice as optimistic when they discovered that Claregalway captain and Galway Junior Player of the Year for 1998, Anthony Monaghan, was absent from the starting line-ups. With that little shot in the arm, the Mayo champions took the game to Claregalway and led by 0-4 to 0-0 by the 21st minute. With Adrian Farragher and John Heneghan dominating Paddy O'Connell and Paul Higgins at centrefield, there were early points for Seán Folan and Heneghan from play, before Ciarán Walsh and Damien Heneghan doubled the tally from dead ball situations.



Tom Naughton (with ball) and David Gibbons (left) launch another attack

Claregalway earned themselves a lifeline in the 22nd minute when an untidy scramble in front of James O'Neill's goal resulted in corner forward, Enda Devitt, forcing the ball over the line. That,



John Heneghan comes under pressure

however, was the only real blemish in the Tourmakeady defensive copybook with Pat Heneghan, Brendan Prendergast and particularly full back Stephen Heneghan offering no signs of relenting in their pursuit of a Connacht title. Instead of Claregalway gaining some impetus from the goal, Tourmakeady upped the tempo again to go in at half-time with a four point lead. Within four minutes, Ciarán Walsh had added two points, the first from a "45", and just before referee Martin Duffy blew for half-time, Joe Heneghan ended a fine run with a deserved point.

There was to be no famous comeback for the Galway champions who had to wait until the 53rd minute for their only point of the game, a free converted by corner forward, Niall McGovern. Instead, Tourmakeady piled on the agony. Two minutes into the second half, John Heneghan pointed after some slick handpassing. Damien Heneghan struck his second point to make it 0-9 to

1-0, and Ciarán Walsh fired over his side's tenth score alter a wonderful passage of play which involved some great movement. Walsh had the final say with a point in the 59th minute to ensure Tom Heneghan's side follow in the path of Breaffy and Parke/Keellogues/Crimlin. No doubt the champagne continued to flow down Lough Mask way into the early hours of Monday morning. Fully deserved too!

Tourmakeady: J. O'Neill, P. Heneghan, S. Heneghan, G. Lydon, D. Gibbons, B. Prendergast, M. Walsh, A. Farragher, John Heneghan (0-2), S. Folan (0-1), T. Naughton, M. Staunton, D. Heneghan (0-2), Joe Heneghan (0-1), C. Walsh (0-5).

Claregalway: N. Donovan, N. Grealish, S. Walsh, K. Watson, M. Grealish, D. O'Brien, R. Kenny, P. O'Connell, P. Higgins, A. Moran, R. Donovan, B. Day, E. Devitt (1-0), J. Concannon, N. McGovern (0-1). Sub.: R. McNamara for Concannon. Referee: M. Duffy (Sligo).



Connacht Junior Football Champions, Hyde Park, Roscommon, March 21, 1999. Back: David Gibbons, Seán Folan, James O'Neill, John Heneghan, Michael John Walsh, Pat Heneghan, Ciarán Walsh. Front: Damien Heneghan, Brendan Prendergast, Michael Staunton, Joe Heneghan, Ger Lydon, Adrian Farragher (capt.), Stephen Heneghan, Tom Naughton. Other panelists not in photograph: Michael Heneghan, Pat Dermody, Tom Ronan, John Farragher, Mícheál O'Neill, Danny Lydon, John O'Shea, David Lydon, Tomás McHale, Brian Naughton, John Lydon. Manager: Tommy Heneghan.





Tourmakeady captain Colm Ó Conghaile accepts the Horan Cup from Seán Horan in Clogher, April 2000.



Ruairí Conroy, Tom Naughton, Damien Heneghan and John Lydon looking unimpressed with the conditions!



Horan Cup 2004, looking a bit happier this time! The Tourmakeady players enjoy the moment as the cup is presented to team captain Brendan Prendergast (out of shot)

# TUAR MHIC ÉADAIGH – BUA TRÉ IARRACHT

*le Colm Ó Conghaile*

Tá sé intuigthe, fiú ó logainm na háite, go bhfuil suim mór ag muintir Thuar Mhic Éadaigh i gcúrsaí peile agus cluichí páirce. Tá an áit ainmnithe i ndiaidh páirc, – páirc Mhic Éadaigh, – agus dá bhrí sin chuaigh an chúlra seo i bhfeidhm orm i mo óige. Tá suim ag chuile dhuine sa cheantar seo i gcúrsaí peil Gaelach.

There is no doubt that our club, like many others on the western seaboard, has been ravaged by the perfect storm of emigration and lack of local employment opportunities over the years. Great credit must be given to Tommy Heneghan and others of his ilk that kept the show on the road during the particularly difficult times of the late 1980s and early '90s. And it was against that backdrop that on one Sunday morning, the bearded man came calling for me.

I made my début for the Tourmakeady Senior team in the summer of '93. Being obviously in dire need of bodies to make up a team of fifteen, Tommy called to our house. He told me they were stuck and to get my boots and be quick about it. To say I was about to burst with both pride and excitement is an understatement but I think I managed to hide this from all present at our front door.

Tommy's Vauxhall estate left our drive with a take-off that the legendary Billy Coleman would be pleased with. On that grand

summer's morning, I was ushered into the Tourmakeady Senior dressing room. Now, coming from the underage ranks, the Senior dressing room was a completely new experience. What had been a feeling of excitement and pride ten minutes earlier now quickly turned to anxiety and a feeling



Colm Ó Conghaile in action against Castlebar Mitchels, MacHale Park, July 2004



of being totally out of my depth. The thing that sticks with me the most, even to this day, was the smell. It was a heady cocktail of Deep Heat and Carroll's cigarettes finished off with an underlying aroma of stale football socks. If you could bottle it, I think it would make a fairly lethal insect repellent! As Tommy did the head count and I prepared my tracksuit to sit on the bench, something landed on my head. I looked up and saw to my surprise that the number 2 black and white jersey was resting on my gear bag. I turned to ensure that I was the intended recipient and sure enough the nod of approval came from Tommy. I can't recall the result of that game nor how well I performed. But what stays with me is the feeling of pulling on the Tourmakeady Senior jersey for the first time. The memory of that moment still keeps my heart warm with pride.

Of course over the years there have been many highs and lows. The loss of our friend and team mate Pádraig Mulroe on the field of play in July 1991 was the lowest. Ar dheis dé go raibh a anam dílis. And then in 2006, we experienced the elation of our first county intermediate title in twenty four years. I remember the wonderful sight of our captain Brian Naughton hanging out the back of his brother Tomás's

van with the Sweeney Cup in his hand as we crossed Doire Mór bridge.

Níl aon dabht ach go bhfuil an chumann seo speisialta. Imreoirí den scoth, crua, láidir agus cumasach, ómós agus grá ag muintir na háite don gheansaí dubh is bán. Is cúis onóir agus bród domsa a bheith mar bhall do chumann Thuar Mhic Éadaigh. We should take tremendous pride in our club and what it has achieved to date. But we must also set ourselves the task of improving and developing all our young players and the club's facilities, which I have no doubt we will achieve if we make the effort. Bua tré iarracht!



Colm Ó Conghaile in action against Belmullet in the 2005 Intermediate Football Championship

# TRANSITION AND PROGRESS: 2001 - 2005

In the 2001 Intermediate Football Championship, Tourmakeady made a first round exit for the third year in a row. They drew with Kiltimagh but lost the replay by 0-8 to 0-5 in Páirc Naomh Muire. Kiltimagh and Mayo goalkeeper Peter Burke astounded the crowd by kicking a free over the bar from inside his own half. In June, Tourmakeady reached the All-Ireland Junior Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta final for the second year in a row but lost to hosts Dromid Pearses. Coláiste Muire Senior "A" girls had an impressive 4-8 to 1-1 win over Sacred Heart College, Westport in the Connacht final but disappointment was again their lot in the All-Ireland against Coláiste na Sceilge. On August 19th, the Ladies Intermediate team captained by Sandra Prendergast comprehensively beat Moy Davitts in the county final. They made it to the Connacht final where they lost to eventual All-Ireland champions, Ballygar. Brendan Prendergast, Michael James Meenaghan and Tom Naughton were on the Mayo U-21 panel that won the Connacht championship and Hastings Cup but lost the All-Ireland final to Tyrone.

Success for Tourmakeady in the Intermediate championship arrived at last in 2002 with hard-fought victories over Ballyhaunis and Davitts before they bowed out to the eventual winners Ballinrobe. The Junior team also had a good run in the championship and reached the semi-final against Louisburgh.

2003 saw further improvement for the Intermediates, as impressive victories over Shrulc-Glencorrib and Ballaghaderreen swept them to the county semi-final. Unfortunately, a below par performance against Louisburgh was not good

enough on the day. The year ended on a high by winning the Centenary Cup. Also in 2003, Brendan Prendergast made a number of appearances with the Mayo Seniors in the Connacht League and the National Football League. In the inaugural TG4 "Underdogs" series, Brian Naughton impressed in trials and was selected to play against the Dubs on December 14th in Parnell Park, where he managed to slip a goal past Stephen Cluxton. The Minor team lost the West Mayo final by a point but made up for it



David O'Toole leaps high to catch the throw-in. Tuar Mhic Éadaigh v Castlebar Mitchels, Intermediate Football Championship, July 4, 2004.





The Tourmakeady team that defeated Kilmeena by 1-10 to 1-5 in the Kelly Cup Final at Ballyheane on April 4, 2004. Back: Ciarán Walsh, Anthony O'Neill, Pat Heneghan, Brian Heneghan, David Prendergast, James O'Neill, John Heneghan, Stephen O'Neill, Adrian Farragher, Colm Ó Conghaile, Damien Heneghan. Front: Ruairí Conroy, Brian Naughton, Mícheál O'Neill, M. J. Meenaghan, Joe Heneghan, Brendan Prendergast (capt.), Mícheál Ronan, James Joyce, Danny Lydon, Tom Naughton. © Photo: John Moylette.

a week later by winning the County League. Nuala O'Shea and Denise Horan won their fourth All-Ireland Senior medal with Mayo Ladies.

In 2004, the Intermediate team won the Centenary Cup, Kelly Cup, and Horan Cup but lost to Davitts in the quarter-final of the championship. Nuala O'Shea captained Mayo Senior ladies to NFL success. Sadly, that year also saw the passing of honorary club president John Callan, twenty five years after he had managed the Tourmakeady Juniors to their famous breakthrough victory of '79.

The Intermediate team again lost the championship quarter-final in 2005, this time by the narrowest of margins to Belmullet in a tight finish. But Tourmakeady had matured as a team since the Junior victory of '98 and were now knocking loudly on the door of Intermediate success. Roll on 2006 ...



Ollie Dillon, Chairperson of West Mayo GAA, presents the Kelly Cup to Tourmakeady captain Brendan Prendergast. © Photo: John Moylette





Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Reserves team v Ballintubber, Horan Cup, April 2005. Back: Ricky Staunton, Anthony O'Neill, Adrian Dolan, Pat Folan, David O'Toole, Michael Staunton, Paul Lydon, Matthew Burke, James Joyce. Front: Mícheál Heneghan, Séamus Gibbons, Michael Staunton, Richard O'Toole, Joe Heneghan, John O'Shea, Frankie Carr. Photo: Louis Walsh.

The Tourmakeady team that played Ballintubber in the 2005 Senior Football League at Páirc Naomh Muire. Back: Ciarán Walsh, John Heneghan, David Prendergast, Mícheál O'Neill, Michael John Walsh, Colm Ó Conghaile, Adrian Farragher, Stephen O'Neill. Front: Brian Naughton, Mark Heneghan, Brian Heneghan, Tom Naughton, Brendan Prendergast, Michael James Meenaghan, Joe Heneghan. Photo: Louis Walsh.





## GLORIOUS YEARS: 2006 - 2010

The years from 2006 to 2010 were a glorious period in the history of CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh. The club's Intermediate team was one of the finest in Connacht and perhaps all of Ireland at that time. The record books show an impressive list of achievements: Mayo Intermediate champions in 2006 and 2010, runners-up in 2009, Connacht Intermediate champions 2006, All-Ireland 7-a-side champions 2006, and Senior Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta runners-up 2007.

Having lost out in the latter stages of the Intermediate championship in 2003, '04 and '05, there was no stopping Tourmakeady in 2006. They emerged at the top of their group by virtue of victories over Kilmaine, Mayo Gaels and Ballyhaunis. In the quarter-final, Tourmakeady faced Belmullet. These two Gaeltacht rivals met each other in the knock-out stages of the Intermediate championship every year from 2005 to 2010, except in 2007 when Tourmakeady were up in Senior ranks. In 2006, Tourmakeady exacted revenge for their defeat of the previous year. In the semi-final, they had a sweet four-point victory over neighbours Ballintubber at Páirc Naomh Muire. So, then, it was on to the county final against Parke in MacHale Park on November 12th. In a hard-fought battle, the two teams were tied at 1-10 apiece in the closing stages. Then substitute Adrian Dolan gained possession out on the sideline and fired over a spectacular long-range winner. It was Tourmakeady's second ever Intermediate county title, a just reward for a panel of players who had grafted hard for several years.

In the Connacht semi-final, Tourmakeady took

on the Roscommon champions Kilmore at Elphin. It went to extra time and Tourmakeady got the vital scores to come out on top. Carrigallen provided the opposition in the Connacht final at Ballinamore on December 3rd. Heavy rains and high winds marred proceedings, but man-of-the-match Brendan Prendergast stood firm at the heart of the Tourmakeady defence while at the other end Brian Naughton chipped in with a few neatly-taken



The long wait is finally over! Mattie Heneghan, hero of the 1982 Intermediate county final, congratulates Kevin Dolan after the 2006 final.

points. Tourmakeady held out to win by 0-7 to 1-3 and in so doing became the first Mayo club to win the Connacht Intermediate Championship, and also the first (and still the only) club to have won Connacht titles at both Junior and Intermediate level.

Breffni Park, Cavan was the venue for the All-Ireland semi-final against Ulster champions, Eoghan Ruadh (Coleraine) on February 18th, 2007. Sadly this was where the adventure came to an end. In a dour game, Tourmakeady failed to take their chances and paid the ultimate price when the Derry side scored a last-kick winner to earn their passage to Croke Park.

And so it was back to the ordinary business of the Mayo county championships. 2007 was Tourmakeady's first year in Senior ranks since 1986. They found the going tough and wound up in a relegation play-off with Claremorris, which they lost after a replay. A good run in the group stages of the 2008 Intermediate championship took Tourmakeady to the quarter-final where they renewed acquaintances with Belmullet. On this occasion, the men of Erris came out on top. The same two clubs faced off again in the 2009 Intermediate county semi-final, and this time it was Tourmakeady's turn to advance. In the final against Westport, Tourmakeady conceded two early goals



The Tourmakeady team that won the All-Ireland Junior/Intermediate Sevens Tournament hosted by St. Jude's GAA Club, Templeogue on September 16, 2006. Back: Pat Burke (manager), Adrian Dolan, Pat Heneghan, Brian Heneghan, Kevin Dolan, Stephen O'Neill, Tom Whelan (selector). Front: Michael James Meenaghan, Damien Heneghan, Brian Naughton, Joe Heneghan, Mícheál Ronan, James Joyce.





Connacht Intermediate  
Football Championship  
medal 2006

and suffered the setback of a sending-off before half-time. They battled in the second half and whittled the Westport lead down to one point, but time ran out. 2009 was also a notable year for the club's U-16 team, who brought home a county

title in this grade for the first time since 1981. Martin Staunton was on that '81 U-16 winning team and his son Shane was on the 2009 team.

In 2010, CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh enjoyed a magnificent year as the club captured silverware at U-14, U-16, Minor, Ladies (Junior) and Mens

(Intermediate) level. On the evening of September 18th, within an hour of each other, the Ladies won an exciting Junior Championship final in Ballyheane and the Minors won the Summer League final in Mayo Abbey. Another memorable weekend was October 16th and 17th. On the Saturday, the Ladies contested the Connacht Junior final before a large home crowd at resplendent-looking Páirc Naomh Muire. Although they did not achieve the desired result, it was nevertheless a very proud day. On the Sunday, the Intermediates headed for MacHale Park to take on a hotly fancied Burrishoole side in the county final. The Tourmakeady lads reserved their best form for the day that really mattered and produced a slick display of intricate moves, brilliant scores, and staunch defending that was an absolute joy to watch and blew Burrishoole away. Team captain Kevin Dolan gave a sparkling display and scored six points to help his side win the county Intermediate title for the third time in the club's history.



2009 Intermediate County Finalists. Back: Piotr Siedlecki (physio), Jack Grimes (manager), Ciarán Walsh, Kevin Dolan, Seán Burke (Cappaghduff), Seán Burke (Partry), Michael Kelly, Adrian Dolan, Stiofán O'Neill, David Prendergast, Mícheál O'Neill, Michael John Walsh, Pat Heneghan, Tom Whelan (selector). Front: Liam Philbin, Antaine O'Neill, Danny Lydon, Mícheál Ronan, Mark Heneghan, Brian Heneghan, Joe Heneghan, John Heneghan, Brian Naughton, Brendan Prendergast, Tom Naughton, Michael James Meeneghan. Mascots: Jamie Walsh, J.B. Heneghan, Oisín Whelan. © Photo: Michael Donnelly.

## Mayo Intermediate Football Championship Final 2006

# THE WEST'S AWAKE AS DEADLY DOLAN DELIVERS WINNER

Tourmakeady 1-11 Parke 1-10

As the opening notes of the final whistle sounded through the ether, the great black and white invasion began. They raced from the four corners of the ground the way their ancestors once streamed towards Hollyhead or JFK. Tears that were once shed as the Gaeltacht youth left their loved ones behind and headed for a new life, now poured down smiling, ecstatic faces as the black and white supporters celebrated a famous victory.

Twenty-four years of waiting which had seen their community survive, stabilise and prosper culminated in a memorable football performance in MacHale Park on Sunday last as the intermediate title went to Tourmakeady for only the second time ever.

Of course great matches require two fine teams



Joe Heneghan bursts past Parke's John Flynn in the Intermediate County Final at MacHale Park, November 12, 2006

and that is what was on view at headquarters as Parke came within a kick of the ball of taking the James Sweeney Cup from the Gaeltacht grasp in a superb match that lurched one way and then the other.

An explosive start into the face of a strong breeze saw Tourmakeady go seven points clear before Parke could even draw breath but the black





Mícheál O'Neill

and amber are fine footballers and with seven minutes of the contest remaining they were two points clear and eyeing glory.

Then as history hung in the balance it was the men in black and white who stepped forward and rolled back a lifetime of waiting by hitting three superb points to seal a famous victory. The new champions had faced into the strong breeze in the opening half but within seconds they were off and running. John Heneghan won a ball in his own half and the leather was quickly transferred through Mícheál O'Neill, Brian Naughton, Tom Naughton and Kevin Dolan until it reached the hands of Joe Heneghan on the right side of the square. The wing-forward advanced and smashed the ball beyond the dive of Parke goalkeeper, Darren Flynn, into the corner of the net to give the Gaeltacht side the perfect start.

That score sent a surge of confidence through his colleagues and four points followed as Parke struggled to find their feet. Kevin Dolan hit the first in the fifth minute before Ciarán Walsh made

light of the weather conditions three minutes later. Tom Naughton then got in on the act before a superb point from Mícheál O'Neill sent the winners seven clear by the twelfth.

That stunning score arrived when Brian Naughton won a ball in his own half, David Prendergast burst forward and found O'Neill steaming through the middle. The big midfielder surged forward and sent the leather straight through the posts to the delight of the Tourmakeady following.

It seemed as if the Gaeltacht men would win as they pleased at this juncture but Parke re-jigged their forces and with Declan Neary and Simon Cloherty getting a grip on midfield, they prospered. Sean McHale began to find room in front of goal and he popped over his side's opening point in the 13th.

Cloherty doubled their tally moments later before McHale had a glorious goal chance in the 17th. A bouncing ball deceived 'Tourmak' full-back, Michael John Walsh, and McHale was through on goal. He attempted to chip the advancing goalkeeper, Brian Heneghan, but to his great dismay the ball dropped over the crossbar.

The black and amber had almost complete territorial domination at this stage but some of their shooting left a lot to be desired. Some of this was bad shot selection but the fact that 'Tourmak' pulled fourteen men behind the ball at times was also a contributing factor. Three further Cloherty points gave Parke real hope but a sweet point from Brian Naughton left the winners two clear at the break 1-5 to 0-6.

Ciarán Walsh stretched the lead further with a



Ciarán Walsh

pointed free five minutes into the second period but Parke were beginning to dominate all over the pitch. John Broderick was popping up all over the place and Michael Walsh was turning in a superb display at centre-half back. Martin 'Ginger' McLoughlin had arrived at midfield for the second half and Declan Neary became the dominant player in that sector. Simon Cloherty moved to wing-forward and he gave Tourmakeady a lot to think about in that sector. The new winger pointed in the 39th, Eoin Carney and the marauding Tom Walsh did likewise in the

following minutes and suddenly the sides were level.

Tourmakeady had to respond and they did so in fine style. Brendan Prendergast worked manfully to cut off the Parke charge and when Mícheál O'Neill landed a 50-yard point and Joe Heneghan added another in the 44th it seemed as if the Gaeltacht men had built a winning platform, how wrong we were.

Parke battled their way up field and the goal they so badly required arrived as if on demand. McLoughlin, Broderick and Tom Walsh combined to set McHale up for a point effort which came back off the post into the arms of Richard O'Boyle and he smashed the ball into roof of the net to set the Parke fans alight.

Seconds later McHale cut inside his marker and put Parke two points up and the great black and amber fairytale was beginning to look more and more realistic but Tourmakeady introduced subs Mark Heneghan and Adrian Dolan and both would have major impacts. Naughton, Joe Heneghan; Kevin Dolan, Ciaran Walsh, Brian Naughton.

Heneghan kept McHale under wraps while Dolan would write his name in Tourmakeady history at the other end. Kevin Dolan pointed in the 54th to cut the gap to the minimum and his brother Adrian levelled the scores with a free in the 55th. Then as play swung from end to end and nervous tension held history in the palm of its hand, Adrian Dolan found the ball in his hand near the right touchline fifty yards from goal. He fired it goalwards and the roar from his neighbours in the stands told him that he had won the day for the Gaeltacht after one of the best finals in years.





Mícheál Ronan

TOURMAKEADY: Brian Heneghan, Pat Heneghan, Michael John Walsh, Anthony O'Neill, David Prendergast, Brendan Prendergast, Michael James Meenaghan, Mícheál O'Neill, John Heneghan, Stephen O'Neill, Tom Naughton, Joe Heneghan, Kevin Dolan, Ciarán Walsh, Brian Naughton. Subs: Michael Ronan for S. O'Neill (39), Mark Heneghan for M.J. Walsh (49), Adrian Dolan for C. Walsh (51).

PARKE: Darren Flynn, John Flynn, Anthony Dunne, Stephen Cloherty, Tom Walsh, Michael Walsh, John Cloherty, Declan Neary, Simon Cloherty, Derek Hopkins, John Broderick, Richard O'Boyle, Pat Dunne, Seán McHale, Eoin Carney. Subs: Barry Basquill for J. Cloherty (27), Martin McLoughlin for Hopkins (ht), Harry Flynn for O'Boyle (56), Kevin Neary for Dunne (59).

Referee: Charlie Collins (Lacken).

*From an article by Michael Gallagher in the Western People, November 14, 2006*



Anthony O'Neill (4) and Pat Heneghan celebrate



David Prendergast jumps for joy at the final whistle

## Connacht Intermediate Football Ch'ship Final 2006

# TOURMAKEADY CROWNED KINGS OF CONNAUGHT

Tourmakeady 0-7 Carrigallen 1-3



David Prendergast jumps to block a Carrigallen shot in the Connacht Intermediate Football Championship Final at Ballinamore on December 3, 2006.

© Photo: Willie Donnellan.



Tourmakeady made history on Sunday when they were crowned Connaught intermediate club championship winners following their magnificent win over Leitrim side Carrigallen in Ballinamore. This remarkable feat by Tourmakeady was achieved by a performance that was as good as I have seen from a Mayo club side in many years. To say they were brilliant would be an understatement. After making the 100-odd miles down to their opponents back garden, Tourmakeady, in conditions not fit for any kind of football, battled like they never battled before to carve out a richly deserved victory. Their fight, determination, unbelievable fitness, courage and never-say-die attitude had to be seen to be believed.

Tourmakeady will go on to contest the All-Ireland semi-final in February and it would take a brave person to say they will not go all the way. However, for now they deserve a well earned break and a time to celebrate their county and Connaught successes. Tourmakeady had the advantage of the wind in their backs for the opening half and settled quickly, making a lot of the early running. With Mícheál O'Neill and John Heneghan winning the midfield duel the Tourmakeady forwards saw plenty of the ball.

However, the bad weather conditions made kicking scores very difficult. Having said that, Tourmakeady, had a few bad wides. The normally reliable Ciarán Walsh was off target with a number of good chances from placed balls. The game was seven minutes old before we had the opening score - a Tourmakeady point. It came following a good upfield movement, which ended with one of the best players on the field, Brian Naughton, who applied the finishing touch. They should have increased their advantage before Carrigallen

opened their account in the 11th minute when Stephen O'Neill pointed from play. However, within 60 seconds this score was cancelled out at the other end of the field when Mícheál Ronan landed a great point from play. Two minutes later Ciarán Walsh finally found the range from a placed ball and at the end of the opening quarter it was Tourmakeady who led by two points, 0-3 to 0-1.

In the second quarter Tourmakeady continued to dominate but again found it difficult to convert this dominance into scores. Their only score of this quarter came in the 20th minute when Brian Naughton landed his second point. A quick Brendan Prendergast free found Naughton who beat two defenders before planting the ball over the bar. The home side, against the run of play, scored the second point of the game in the 30th minute when Benny O'Rourke pointed from a free to leave them just two points in arrears - 0-4 to 0-2 - and many wondered if the seven wides Tourmakeady accumulated in the opening half might cost them dearly at the end of the game.

On the resumption the weather conditions just simply got worse and worse. As a result it almost made it impossible to play any sort of football. However, great credit must go to both sides as they fought like tigers and at times made a mockery of the conditions. In the early stages of the second half it was clear to see that Tourmakeady were ready to fight for their lives as every member dug in and fought for every ball. As a result Carrigallen, who had the assistance of the strengthening wind in their backs, were given little or no time on the ball and their scoring chances were few and far between.

The opening score of the second half arrived in the 42nd minute when Tourmakeady's centre-half

back, Brendan Prendergast, came all the way upfield to take a 21-yard free to put them three points in front. However, this lead was short lived as within 60 seconds the ball was in the back of the Tourmakeady net. To say it was a freak goal would be an understatement as a long free by Noel Doonan from the middle of the field went all the way to the net. It was a real body blow to Tourmakeady who, up to this, seemed to have their opponent's measure taken.

As we have seen so often in the past this Tourmakeady side are real battlers and we knew going into the final quarter this quality would be put to the limit. We hadn't long to wait for their response to the Carrigallen goal as in the 46th minute they took the lead again when Brendan Prendergast once again found Brian Naughton, who in turn landed a delightful point. As the Leitrim side went in search of the equaliser Tourmakeady drove them back time and time again. However, in the 25th minute they were back on level terms when substitute Derek Mulligan scored his side's best point of the day. At this stage many were beginning to think that extra time might be needed to sort out this encounter, but up popped Brian Naughton once again to score his fourth point of the day and what turned out to be a match-winning one. It was a magnificent effort as Naughton beat a number of players before pointing from a difficult angle.

In the closing moments Carrigallen threw everything at Tourmakeady. In the 59th minute the Tourmakeady goalkeeper, Brian Heneghan, brought off a truly brilliant save to deny Clifford Richardson a goal. In the final moment Brendan Prendergast capped a magnificent performance when he reached to the clouds to fetch a dropping

ball in his own goal area despite the attention of half of the Carrigallen team. Following his clearance the final whistle blew much to the delight of the Tourmakeady players, management and the many who made the long journey to the Leitrim venue.

This was a victory Tourmakeady richly deserved. From one to 15 they were magnificent. All six backs in front of star goalkeeper, Brian Heneghan, were just superb throughout. Midfielders O'Neill and Heneghan won the battle in the middle of the park, while up front the forwards, despite finding it hard to get scores, worked all day. There were many contenders for man of the match. Indeed, any one of 10 or 12 were in contention. However, Brendan Prendergast was outstanding throughout and gets the nod over corner forward Brian Naughton.

Scorers for Tourmakeady: B. Naughton 0-4, B. Prendergast 0-1, C. Walsh 0-1, M. Ronan 0-1.

Scorers for Carrigallen: N. Doonan 1-0, E. O'Malley 0-1, B. O'Rourke 0-1, D. Mulligan 0-1. Tourmakeady: B. Heneghan, P. Heneghan, M. Walsh, A. O'Neill, D. Prendergast, B. Prendergast, M. J. Meenaghan, M. O'Neill, John Heneghan, S. O'Neill, T. Naughton, Joe Heneghan, M. Ronan, C. Walsh, B. Naughton. Subs used: M. Heneghan and A. Dolan.

Carrigallen: E. Lyons, C. Harte, D. Flynn, D. Mulligan, G. Reynolds, J.P. McManus, K. Ward, N. Doonan, C. Richardson, E. O'Malley, C. McGuinness, T. Reynolds, C. Flynn, R. Reilly, B. O'Rourke. Subs used: D. Mulligan, D. Mc-Govern and G. Reilly.

Referee: Gerry Kinneavy (Galway).

*From an article by Aiden Henry in the Connaught Telegraph, December 6, 2006.*





Mayo and Connacht Intermediate Football Champions 2006. Back: Ciarán Walsh, Colm Ó Conghaile, Seán Burke, Anthony O'Neill, John Heneghan, Kevin Dolan, David Prendergast, Michael John Walsh, Pat Heneghan, Mícheál O'Neill, Stephen O'Neill, Adrian Dolan, Aidan Dermody, Eoin Burke, Seán Burke. Front: James Joyce, Mark Heneghan, Damien Heneghan, Michael James Meenaghan, Brendan Prendergast, Brian Naughton (capt.), Brian Heneghan, Joe Heneghan, Tom Naughton, Mícheál Ronan, Danny Lydon, Séamus Gibbons.

## Mayo Intermediate Football Championship Final 2010

# TOURMAK' TAKE SECOND CHANCE: FAVOURITES AMBUSHED BY LAST YEAR'S LOSERS

Tourmakeady 0-11 Burrishoole 0-9



Kevin Dolan produced a scintillating performance in the 2010 County Final to lead his team to victory.

Twelve months after losing an Intermediate final, and leaving MacHale Park with shattered dreams and tear-stained faces, Tourmakeady strode triumphantly out of Castlebar last Sunday evening with the Sweeney Cup in their possession.

Backboned by seven sets of brothers, and

brilliantly prepared and tutored by Jack Grimes and his management team, Tourmakeady fulfilled their date with destiny at the second time of asking. In the process, just like 1982, they consigned Burrishoole to the role of bridesmaids. The pre-competition favourites were finally worn



down by a litany of recent injuries that had robbed them of key men, including Liam O'Malley for last weekend's decider.

Not even the promptings of Colm McManamon, and plenty of honest effort, could prevent their season-long unbeaten record from coming to an end. Tourmakeady were the better team on the day; it was as simple as that. They won most of the 'dirty ball' around the middle, held five of Burrishoole's six forwards scoreless from play (including the mercurial Jason Doherty) and dredged scores from six different players at the other end.

Their captain, Kevin Dolan, led the way once again. Tourmakeady's leading scorer in the championship shot six points but his job was made relatively easy by the selfless, smart work done around him by the Naughtons, Heneghans, Pat Folan, Mícheál Ronan and Mícheál O'Neill. The way Tourmakeady won, and then kept possession, was a joy to watch at times. They guarded the ball like a precious diamond with Brendan Prendergast, John Heneghan and Tom and Brian Naughton making most of the crucial, playmaking decisions.

Remarkably, Burrishoole burned out quickly after a flying start when they shot two points in as many minutes from centre-forward Michael Moran (who was also forced out of the game through injury midway through the second half) and Jason Doherty (free). Despite playing against the strong wind, Tourmakeady drew level on eight minutes with scores from Brendan Prendergast (free) and Brian Naughton. It was obvious even at that early stage that they meant business; Mark Heneghan, David Prendergast and Tom Staunton



Jack Grimes, Bainisteoir Thuar Mhic Éadaigh

getting tight on Jason Doherty, David Keane and Enda McManamon (a surprise late inclusion) while John Heneghan swept in front of his defence like a matador.

Some lovely pass-and-move football, which saw them mix the long and short games excellently, then yielded three further points in ten minutes from Kevin Dolan (free), the perceptive Tom Naughton and Mícheál O'Neill. It was 0-5 to 0-2 on 21 minutes. Burrishoole were struggling all over the field, losing most of the individual battles and devoid of leadership around the middle. Jason Doherty was also being starved of possession inside but he did well to set up Alan Moran for an inspirational long-range point from the left wing to end a barren spell of over 20 minutes for his team.



Nuala and Paddy Dolan watching the action.

It was only a brief respite though as Tourmakeady continued to hunt in packs, dispossessing their opponents when they carried the ball into the tackle, and breaking at speed in numbers. Two such moves led to fine points from MJ Meenaghan and Kevin Dolan (after he skilfully chip-lifted the ball and used his pace to slice the Burrishoole defence wide open) to ease Tourmakeady ahead by 0-7 to 0-3.

Michael Moran and Dolan traded frees before the interval to send the 2/1 outsiders in at the break leading by 0-8 to 0-4, and looking every inch like a team who had decided to seize the day.

As expected, Burrishoole came out with all guns blazing for the second half but found formidable obstacles in Tourmakeady's resolve, physical strength, and blanket defence. A Kevin Dolan free also widened the gap after nine minutes and sustained Burrishoole pressure all during the third quarter could only yield a solitary score from

James Moran in the 42nd minute.

Despite the lack of scores, there was nobody holding back on either side during a frenetic second half. However, Tourmakeady looked comfortable out in front as their experience and craft was obvious whenever Burrishoole threatened. The sides traded points twice during the final quarter; efforts from Pádraic McManamon and Jason Doherty (free) being cancelled out by two sweet scores from the classy Kevin Dolan. The match was in injury-time when Doherty, the competition's Golden Boot winner, swung over two frees to set up a close finish but Tourmakeady were not to be denied again.

TOURMAKEADY: B. Heneghan, M. Heneghan, D. Prendergast, T. Staunton, M.J. Walsh, B. Prendergast (0-1, 1f), M.J. Meenaghan (0-1), M. O'Neill (0-1), John Heneghan, P. Folan, T. Naughton (0-1), M. Ronan, B. Naughton (0-1), Joe Heneghan, K. Dolan (0-6, 4fs). Subs used: A. O'Neill for Walsh; D. O'Toole for Folan; S. O'Neill for Joe Heneghan; D. Heneghan for M. Heneghan.

BURRISHOOLE: S. Nevin, D. Drumm, S. McManamon, P. Mulchrone, A. Moran (0-1), M. Joyce, P. McManamon (0-1), P. Holmes, J. Moran (0-1), P. Mulchrone, M. Moran (0-2, 1f), D. O'Grady, E. McManamon, D. Keane, J. Doherty (0-4, 4fs). Sub used: L. O'Malley for M. Moran (inj).

Referee: V. Neary (Bonniconlon)

*From an article by Mike Finnerty in the Mayo News, October 19, 2010.*





Above: Here we go again ! Two similar action shots from the 1982 and 2010 Intermediate County Finals between Tourmakeady and Burrishoole, Pat Naughton (left) and Tom Staunton (right) shield the ball.

Below: Brian Naughton scores a point in the 2010 final. © Photos: Frank Dolan (1982) and Michael Donnelly (2010).



John Heneghan collects the ball against Burrishoole in the 2010 Intermediate County Final. Below is his father Tommy making a catch against the same opponents in the 1982 Final. © Photo: Michael Donnelly.



Flashback to 1982. Pat Naughton (No. 6), Tommy Heneghan (with ball), and Seán Seoighe (at right) in action against Burrishoole in the Intermediate County Final. Tourmakeady won in 1982 and again in 2010 against the same opponents. © Photo: Frank Dolan.





Tom  
Naughton  
shoots for  
goal.  
© Photo:  
Michael  
Donnelly.



Experienced  
forward Joe  
Heneghan.  
© Photo:  
Michael  
Donnelly.



Mícheál  
O'Neill  
launches  
another  
attack.  
© Photo:  
Michael  
Donnelly.

Right: Tourmakeady captain Kevin Dolan hoists the Sweeney Cup following his team's brilliant victory in the 2010 Intermediate County Football Final.

Below: Joyous scenes at the final whistle.

© Photos:  
Michael Donnelly  
and David Farrell







Mayo Intermediate County Football Champions, MacHale Park, Castlebar, October 17, 2010. Back: Tom Whelan, Stephen O'Neill, David O'Toole, David Prendergast, Pat Folan, Pat Heneghan, Nial Donoghue, Danny Lydon, Mícheál O'Neill, Mike Kelly, Michael John Walsh, Seán Burke, Liam Philbin, Rory Conroy, Ciarán Walsh, Colm Ó Conghaile. Front: Anthony O'Neill, Damien Heneghan, Brian Naughton, Mícheál Ronan, Kevin Dolan (capt.), Brian Heneghan, Michael James Meenehan, Tom Naughton, Tom Staunton, Mark Heneghan, Joe Heneghan. Mascots holding the cup: Oisín Whelan and Jamie Walsh. © Photo: Michael Donnelly.





Friends and partners of Tourmakeady mens footballers at a celebratory dinner dance in Máire Luke's, January 2011. Back: Marie Gill, Marie Caitlín Casey, Hazel Morahan, Cathy Heneghan, Laura Prendergast, Fiona Heneghan, Jennifer Heneghan, Christine Walsh, Anita Gallagher, Aislinn Naughton, Niamh Naughton, Niamh Heneghan. Front: Bridie Walsh, Sinéad Egan, Caroline O'Neill, Alison Barnes, Una Heneghan, Jackie Sheridan, Martina Dolan, Aisling O'Neill. © Photo: John Moylette.

Below: Pupils at S.N. Coill a' tSidheáin celebrating CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh successes of the previous season, March 2011.





## MY ADVENTURES IN THE BLACK AND WHITE

*by Brendan Prendergast*



U-10 Blitz Winners 1990. Back: Adrian Lally, Pat Staunton, Tomás Naughton, Danny Cox, Tomás Folan, Michael James Meenaghan, Damien Heneghan, Shane Lally. Front: Mark Conway, Mícheál Ronan, Brian Naughton, Brendan Prendergast, David O'Toole, Niall Philbin, Ruairí Conroy.

May 1989 is all where it began – my love affair with the GAA and in particular my “grá” for CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh. Under the guidance of Pat Naughton and Jim Callaghan I began my footballing career with Tourmak in an U-10 challenge match against our neighbours Ballintubber in Páirc Naomh Mhuire. This is where many great friendships and memories

began for me. My first real memory was when we won an U-10 blitz in Ballyhaunis in the summer of 1990. Jim and Pat were still at the helm. It was a great occasion and I can still fondly remember lads hanging out the windows and sunroofs of cars swinging socks and black jerseys as we paraded around the village with our silverware.

As we got older the football began to get more serious. Our underage team was blessed with many fine footballers and we competed at the highest levels in the county leagues and divisional competitions as we progressed up through the ranks. I was fortunate enough, too, that when I was attending Coláiste Mhuire we had remarkable success on the playing fields. In April '96 we were defeated by Mohill in a Senior (U-19) Connacht Final in Ballina. In April '97, under the stewardship of John Power, we won the Connacht Junior (U-17) Championship versus St. Joseph's Secondary School Charlestown in Claremorris. This was an historical occasion as this was the first male team from the Coláiste to win a Connacht title since the school went co-educational.

A lot of people helped and guided me along the way while I was playing underage football. Men like Pat Naughton, Tommie Heneghan and Pat Burke were always offering advice to me on how to improve as a footballer. These men brought my teammates and I to every corner of the county. They also encouraged us to mix it with the best in the county and brought us to county trials for various underage teams. I was lucky enough to be selected along with Tom Naughton for the Mayo U-16 panel in 1996. We won the Ted Webb competition that year - myself at centre back and Tom at centre forward. A proud day for both of us and for our families and the club.

I have been asked to list my proudest moment



Another storming performance by Brendan Prendergast in the 2010 Intermediate County Final

with the club. We have had many great achievements down through the years since I first started playing with the 'big lads' in 1998 – County Junior in 1998, Connacht Junior title in 1999 vs Claregalway, County U-21 'B' vs Ballaghaderreen in 1999, Connacht Intermediate vs Carrigallen in 2006, Intermediate title vs Burrishoole in 2010 – all great days in their own



right. However, there will always be one memory that will live long with me and that is the County Intermediate win against Parke in 2006. We had lost a semi-final and two quarter-finals in the previous three years so a lot was riding on that final. That panel of players had grown very close and were (and still are) good friends. We were all on the same page and really wanted to win that Intermediate title. Firstly there was a huge feeling of relief after that match when Adrian Dolan swung over that monster point to win it. Then there was the outpouring of emotion as family and friends gathered around on the pitch to join in the celebrations. Tears poured openly from players' eyes that day (I'm starting here now as I write this) when Brian Naughton lifted the Sweeney Cup. Years and years of hard training and pain had gone into the winning of that title. Without doubt that special moment is my fondest and most cherished memory.

I have been fortunate that I have many great memories from my time playing and being involved with CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh. However there are just a few lingering regrets. Personally, losing the U-21 All Ireland final with Mayo to a fine Tyrone team in 2001 is high on the list. Not getting a fair crack at the Moclair Cup is another one. However, the biggest regret that I have is not getting the chance to represent our club on the hallowed turf of Croke Park in 2007. I know many club footballers all over the country don't get the chance to play in Croke Park or even come near it with their club, but we were within a couple of minutes of achieving this goal. That All-Ireland Intermediate Semi-Final versus Eoghan Rua from Coleraine played in Breffni Park was definitely a day that we left the match after us, but I suppose

that's the way it goes – you win some, you lose some. It would have been a remarkable achievement to have got to play with Tourmak' in Croke Park and would have been a fairytale ending to a brilliant season after our county and Connacht successes.

If I was to sum up my feelings towards Tourmakeady GAA, I would say that I am proud and lucky to have had the chance to play and represent the club for many years. Many friendships have been forged down through the years with my association with the club and many fond memories are stored away in the memory bank. As I near the end of my playing career, I look forward to the journey beginning again with my own children when they set out on their own adventures in the black and white.



Brian Naughton accepts the Sweeney Cup,  
November 12, 2006

### PRESENT TIMES: 2011 - 2015



The Tourmakeady team prior to the Senior Division 1A game versus Claremorris in Páirc Naomh Muire, March 31, 2013. Back: Darren Kelly, Eoin Staunton, Shane Staunton, Stephen Staunton, Nial Donoghue, Stephen O'Neill, Michael Staunton, Máirtín Staunton, Mark Gibbons, Seán Burke, Pat Folan, Mícheál O'Neill, Kevin Dolan, James Joyce. Front: Tom Staunton, Anthony O'Neill, Damien Heneghan, Michael James Meeneghan, Brian Heneghan, David Prendergast, Brendan Prendergast, Tom Naughton, Danny Lydon, Brian Naughton.

Following the highs of 2010, the club's Senior team has been in a transitional phase for the past few years. The primary objective has been consolidation and gradual introduction of new talent. The Tourmakeady team that defeated Burrishoole by a point (2-10 to 1-12) in the 2015 Intermediate Football Championship at Páirc Naomh Muire on June 27th showed several changes from that which beat the same opposition in the 2010 county final. Gone from the panel were a number of players who had given years of outstanding service, including Ciarán Walsh, Michael John Walsh, John Heneghan, Tom Naughton, Pat Heneghan, Mícheál Ronan, David

O'Toole and Adrian Dolan. In their place have come younger players such as Shane Staunton, Darren Kelly, Danny Walsh, Maidhc de Búrca, Stephen Staunton, Paul Staunton, Martin Prendergast, Máirtín Staunton, Eoin Staunton, Aaron Conroy, Mícheál Egan, Darragh McConnell, Frank Carr, and Tom Currid.

The years from 2011 to 2015 have been lean as regards championship success. Losses were recorded against Ballina and Claremorris in the 2011 SFC, followed by a morale-boosting win over Shrile-Glencorrib in the final round. Relegation was avoided with a one-point victory over a fancied Charlestown side in the play-offs.



Despite only winning one group game in the 2012 Senior championship (a memorable 0-10 to 0-9 home victory over Ballina), results elsewhere meant that Tourmakeady were saved. The team had a good run in Division 1B of the league in 2012 and won promotion to the top flight. 2013 was an utterly forgetful year for the Senior squad.



Tom Staunton was the club's Young Player of the Year in 2010 and has emerged as one of the leaders of the current team

The relationship between the panel and the external team manager progressively deteriorated and performances on the field suffered. The team failed to win a game in the Senior championship and suffered a series of heavy losses that saw them tumble back to Intermediate ranks. In 2014, all three group stage games were lost but in the relegation decider against Cill Chomáin in Crossmolina, Kevin Dolan scored 2-8 of his side's

total of 2-13 to save the day by five points. In the current year (2015), a spirited and long-awaited victory over Burrishoole in the final round – the first championship win on home ground in three years – almost earned salvation but inferior scoring difference meant that the team will again be contesting the relegation play-offs for the fourth season out of the past five. Another reprieve is predicted.

The Ladies football team are also in a period of transition since reaching the Connacht final of 2010. The majority of that squad are no longer playing but younger players like Ruth Heneghan and the Barker sisters have come to the fore. With a blend of experience and up-and-coming youth, there is a confident expectation that it will not be long before the Ladies bring major honours back to the club again. They lost to Louisburgh in the 2013 Junior Championship county final and to St. Mary's in the 2014 league decider, but are presently going well in 2015 competitions. A notable first was the achievement of the U-13 girls in winning the 2014 county final.

For the past few seasons, the club has also entered a mens team at Junior ranks. They contested the West Mayo Junior "B" finals of 2010 and 2012 and have achieved some memorable wins in the lower division of the league. This team enables younger players to make the step-up from underage to adult and also provides game time to players who are on the fringes of the first team squad.

At underage level, several teams have appeared in county league and championship finals in the period 2011 to 2015. These are mentioned in a later chapter on juvenile football and also in the roll of honours section.



Shane Staunton and Darren Kelly, pictured here as U-16s against Kilmeena in 2010, are two of the most promising players to come through underage ranks in recent years. They both made their Senior débuts in the 2013 season. Photos: Martin McIntyre



Action from Tuar Mhic Éadaigh versus Ballyhaunis in the Mayo Intermediate Football Championship at Páirc Naomh Muire, June 22, 2014. Left: Kevin Dolan slips past Enda Griffin. Right: Danny Walsh in a duel with Niall Prenty. © Photos: Conor McKeown.





Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Senior panel v Kilmeena in Kelly Cup, April 2014. Back: Stephen O'Neill, Damien Heneghan, Eoin Staunton, Brian Naughton, John Heneghan, Mark Gibbons, Mícheál O'Neill, Darren Kelly, Mícheál Egan, Eoin de Búrca. Front: Nial Donoghue, Anthony O'Neill, Danny Lydon, David Prendergast, Brendan Prendergast, Thomas Staunton, Joe Heneghan, Shane Staunton, Danny Walsh, Thomas Kelly. Missing: Michael James Meeneghan, Martin Prendergast, Seán Burke, Kevin Dolan, Máirtín Staunton, Brian Heneghan, Maidhc de Búrca, Aaron Conroy. Photo: Martin McIntyre.



Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Junior team v Bonniconlon in Division 1F League, September 2014. Back: Pádraig de Búrca, Stephen Heneghan, Seán Burke, Eoin Staunton, Mícheál Egan, James Grant, Tom Currid, Máirtín Staunton, Eoin de Búrca. Front: Matthew Heneghan, Stephen Staunton, Aaron Conroy, Séamus Gibbons, Danny Lydon, Thomas Kelly, Nial Donoghue, Tom Naughton, Anthony O'Neill. Missing: David Lally, Paul Staunton.





Foireann Sóisir Thuar Mhic Éadaigh a d'imir in aghaidh Muine Chonalláin, Sraith 1F, Bealtaine 9, 2015. Ar chúl: Seosamh Ó hÉanacháin, Uinsíonn Ó Dólaín, Máirtín de Phriondargáist, Ciarán Ó hÓráin, Pól Stundún, Seán de Grannt, Pól Ó Luideáin, Mícheál Mac Aodhagáin, Eoin Stundún, Eoin de Búrca, Dairín Ó Ceallaigh. Chun tosaigh: Tomás Ó Neachtain, Maitiú Ó hÉanacháin, Aaron Ó Conaire, Séamus Mac Giobúin, Stiofán Stundún, Donal Ó Luideáin, Nial Mac Donnacha, Mícheál Mac Eochaidh, Tomás Ó Ceallaigh (Bainisteoir), Mícheál Ó Fhlainn (Roghnóir).

Foireann Idirmheanach Thuar Mhic Éadaigh a bhuaigh thar Buiríos Umhaill i gCraobh an Chontae i bPáirc Naomh Muire ar Meitheamh 25, 2015. Ar chúl: Aaron Ó Conaire, Pól Stundún, Dairín Ó Ceallaigh, Mícheál Ó Néill, Máirtín Stundún, Seán de Búrca (Partraí), Maidhc de Búrca, Máirtín de Phriondargáist, Mícheál Mac Aodhagáin, Seán de Búrca (An Cheapaigh Dhuibh). Chun tosaigh: Dónal Ó Luideáin, Brian Ó Neachtain, Stiofán Stundún, Daithí de Phriondargáist (Captaen), Breandán de Phriondargáist, Damien Ó hÉanacháin, Brian Ó hÉanacháin, Dónal Breathnach, Tomás Stundún, Darragh Mac Conaill. As láthair: Caoimhín Ó Dólaín, Seosamh Ó hÉanacháin, M. S. Ó Maoineacháin, Séan Stundún.





## PEIL NA mBAN

***“Ar bhruach Loch Measca a bhfuilimid,  
Níl aon ní ar domhan níos deise,  
Mórtas, dílseacht, aontas uile,  
I mbratach dhubh agus bhán Naomh Muire”***

*– Shauna Ní Bhaircér*

There is some uncertainty about when Tourmakeady Ladies Gaelic Football Club was founded and various dates have been cited. The earliest reference to ladies football in Tourmakeady comes from November 1967. At that time, the mens GAA club participated in indoor football tournaments in Castlebar as part of winter training. They had two teams called the “Mask Ramblers” and the “All Blacks”. Tourmakeady ladies also entered a team under the name of “The Round Squares” (Maureen Malone, Carmel Spain, Bridget Heneghan, Breda McAndrew and Mary McGee). In 1968, Una Dever of Tourmakeady featured on a Mayo ladies inter-county team that played Galway in a 7-a-side indoor game.

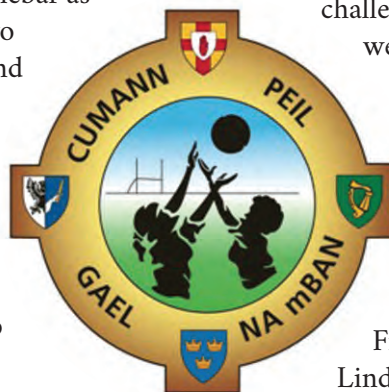
Although camogie, or “ladies hurling” as it was sometimes referred to in early reports, had been around since the 1900s, the notion of ladies playing football was unheard of until the 1960s women’s liberation movement. From the late 1960s onwards, “ladies football” began to appear as a novelty feature on the programmes of local festivals around the country. Tourmakeady was no exception, and Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh ’72 included a ladies soccer match amongst its list of

events. In May 1973, the Tourmakeady Gaeltarra Éireann ladies team won an inter-firms 7-a-side tournament.

The first mention of Tourmakeady ladies participating in a Gaelic football game is in June 1974, when they played Shrúle in an 11-a-side challenge at the Kilmaine festival. A few

weeks later, on July 18th 1974, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) was founded at a meeting in Hayes Hotel, Thurles – the same venue in which the GAA was founded 90 years previously. Towards the end of 1974, Mayo LGFA County Board was formed by Fr. Gerry Gillespie (Belmullet) and Linda Colgan (Lahardane).

At Comórtas Peile ’75 in Gaoth Dobhair, a team representing Tuar Mhic Éadaigh won a ladies football tournament. From 1976 onwards, ladies Gaelic football games were a regular feature of the annual Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh. The Tourmakeady girls, whose average age was then 15, participated in tournaments but did not take part in official county competitions during those years. The first move to formally establish a Ladies Gaelic football club in Tourmakeady seems to have come in October 1978. The *Connaught Telegraph*



reported that a new club was formed and trainer John Callan appealed to all ladies interested in indoor winter training “to contact him immediately”. John Callan was also the men’s team trainer, but the *Telegraph* again noted in May 1979 that he “has not neglected the female sex of Tourmakeady. With a training panel of 26, he hopes to bring honours to the village by winning the Mayo ladies’ football championship”. Tourmakeady GAA club gave a grant of £50 to enable the ladies get their club started. As it turned out, the Ladies County Board fell by the wayside between 1978 and 1980 and there were no official competitions in Mayo during those years. Noreen Lally from Derryveeney was instrumental in getting Mayo ladies football going again in 1981, in which year Tourmakeady affiliated for the first time.

The Tourmakeady girls lost to Bonniconlon in the 1981 Senior League final but made amends the following year when they beat the same opposition in the Senior Championship Final. They went all the way to the Connacht final but fell to reigning All-Ireland champions, Galway Gaels. Tourmakeady lost to rivals Cong in the 1982 and 1983 Senior League finals and in the Senior Championship finals of 1983 and 1984, but eventually got the upper hand when they overcame Cong in the 1984 Senior League final.

The Tourmakeady ladies club folded in 1986 and from then until 1990, local girls played with Carnacon. In 1987, Bernie O’Neill, Eileen O’Neill and Cáit Morahan won an All-Ireland Junior Championship with Mayo.

Bernie O’Neill played a big part in re-forming the Tourmakeady ladies club in 1991. In 1992,

they lost the Junior League final to Westport after a replay. 1993 saw Tourmakeady ladies reach the Junior League and Championship finals, only to lose both to Ballinrobe. Also in 1993, Bernie O’Neill captained Mayo to an All-Ireland Senior “B” Championship success and won the first of her two All-Star awards.

1994 was a memorable year for Tourmakeady ladies as they achieved a double victory by winning the Junior League and Championship,



Laura Gibbons, pictured here in action against Cloggernagh NS in the 2015 county semi-final, is a very promising young player. Her mother Cáit is the holder of All-Ireland Minor and Junior medals with Mayo.



easily beating Carnacon in both finals. In 1996, Tourmakeady reached the Senior League final but lost to Hollymount.

Throughout the 1990s, Tourmakeady produced several outstanding young players who achieved provincial and national success with Mayo teams at U-14, U-16, Minor and Senior level (see lists at end of book). Sunday October 3rd 1999 was a memorable day as four members of the club – Denise Horan, Nuala O'Shea, Martha Ní Mháille, and Shellie Gibbons – all played on the Mayo team that brought the All-Ireland Senior "A" Championship title back to the county for the first time ever. The following year, there were seven Tourmakeady girls on the Mayo panel that won the 2000 Senior National Football League.

At club level, with such a wealth of talent, Tourmakeady might have been expected to do better in terms of honours than they actually did during those years. But there were a number of other clubs who also had strong representation on

the county panels and Tourmakeady narrowly missed out on success on a few occasions. They made the breakthrough in 2001 by winning the Mayo Intermediate Championship for the first time, thus adding to the previous championship wins at Senior (1982) and Junior (1994) level. Another championship title came in 2010 with victory over Moy Davitts in the Junior final. In 2001 and 2010, Tourmakeady reached the Connacht final against Galway opposition but lost on both occasions to the eventual All-Ireland champions, Ballygar and Caltra Cuans respectively.

In 2013, Tourmakeady ladies entered teams in juvenile competitions for the first time ever. The U-13 girls won their county championship in 2014 and there are several promising young players coming through in the various age groups at present. The prospects are bright for Tourmakeady ladies footballers and we look forward to many more great years ahead.



Noreen Hughes (née Lally), captain of John McBride's Ladies, Chicago Champions 1987



Noreen's daughter Therése, captain of Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-13 Mayo Champions 2014.

# Mayo Ladies Senior Football Championship Final 1982

## LADIES TEAM CONGRATULATED ON CHAMPIONSHIP WIN



Tourmakeady Ladies football team 1982, winners of the tournament at Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh. Back: Mary Ann Dolan (Durcan), Kathleen Lally (Feerick), Kathy Lally (Tiernan), Mary Walsh (McGovern), Mary Gibbons (Gardiner), Judy Heneghan (Burke), Ann B. Ronan. Middle: Eileen O'Neill, Mary Ronan (Walsh), Bernie Dolan (Heveran), Patricia Dolan (Gibbons), Noreen Lally (Hughes). Front: Kathleen Walsh (Cooney), Maudy Heneghan (McConnell), Siobhán Lally (Jennings), Siobhán Heneghan (de Búrca).



A big crowd attended St. Mary's Hall, Tourmakeady on Saturday night last for the victory buffet and dance in honour of the Tourmakeady ladies footballers who won the Mayo senior football championship title (by beating Bonnictonlon).

In his address, Mr. Gearóid Mulrooney, chairman of Cumann Naomh Seosamh which takes charge of the team, congratulated the girls on their marvellous display throughout the year. He also paid tribute to the organising of the function. Mr. Mulrooney advised the attendance to enjoy the comfort of non-drinking by having their entertainment at home and savings to the economy. "When a little organisation can serve up a four course meal and top class entertainment any club or group can do likewise," he said. "It is only the beginning of many similar events." Bernie Dolan, captain of the victorious team, thanked the hundreds of supporters who backed the team all year. Miss Dolan had warm

praise for team coach and trainer Willie Barker. Willie has taken the team from its organisation to county champions. He was presented with a magnificent trophy as a token of appreciation. Michael John Casey, vice-chairman of the Tourmakeady GAA Club, expressed his good wishes to the girls and requested more support for the league county final which Tourmakeady will contest later in the month. He also placed his trust and hoped the intermediate mens team win the final on Sunday week and the ladies win the league final the scene will be set for a gigantic night in the hall. All three speakers gave praise to the catering staff for the buffet. The chairman thanked the sponsors of magnificent prizes namely Staunton's Sportswear Castlebar, Gaeltarra Knitwear Tourmakeady, and the Lough Mask Inn. Miss Noreen Lally (Derryveeney) of Mayo County Board also came in for some praise for motivating ladies football throughout the county.



Tourmakeady Ladies football team in a County Final in MacHale Park in the early 1980s. Back: Mary Ann Dolan, Ann Ronan, Bernie Coyne, Mary Walsh, Judy Heneghan, Cathy Lally. Front: Eileen O'Neill, Kathleen Lally, Patricia Dolan, Noreen Lally, Bernie Dolan (capt.), Maria Flanagan, Kathleen Heneghan, Mary Ronan, Siobhán Lally.





Tourmakeady Ladies football team 1993. Back: Ciarán Walsh (manager), Niamh Heneghan, Sharon Wall, Bernie O'Neill, Katie Meenaghan, Carmel Gibbons, Sandra Prendergast, Mairéad Walsh, Mary Whelan, Noreen O'Neill, Raymond Prendergast (manager). Front: Kurt Menrad (sponsor), Caroline Prendergast, Tríona Conneely, Martha Ní Mháille, Mary Teresa O'Neill, Siobhán Reilly, Kathleen O'Neill, Eileen O'Neill, Bernie Lydon, Kathleen Ann Heneghan, Marie Gibbons, Christina Heneghan, Aoife Ní Mháille.



## Mayo Ladies Junior Football Championship Final 1994

### TOURMAKEADY GIRLS POINT WAY TO SUCCESS

Tourmakeady 1-15 Carnacon 2-3

Tourmakeady ran out easy winners in this Mayo Junior ladies football final in Flanagan Park, Ballinrobe, on Sunday last, despite a gallant effort in the second-half by Carnacon. Tourmakeady dominated though much of this game, putting 1-9 on the scoreboard before Carnacon responded. Tourmakeady had it easy and got a string of points from Sandra Prendergast (7), Bernie Lydon, Lorraine O'Neill (2), Carmel Gibbons, and Mairéad Walsh. Sandra Prendergast also found the net in the 25th minute. Carnacon's score came just before half-time when Sylvia Jordan put the ball in the back of the net.

After the restart, Martha O'Malley immediately got a point for Tourmakeady, but Carnacon came back to put some scores on the board. Helen Malone pointed, Cora Staunton found the net, and the same player followed up with a goal. It was Carnacon's last score, however. Tourmakeady surged forward again with points coming from their star forward Sandra Prendergast (2) and Eileen O'Neill (2).

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Sandra Prendergast  
scored 1-7 in the 1994  
County Final

Tourmakeady: Mary Walsh, Sharon Wall, Bernie O'Neill, Mary T. O'Neill, Kathleen Ann Heneghan, Caroline Prendergast, Triona Conneely, Carmel Gibbons (0-1), Eileen O'Neill (0-2); Lorraine O'Neill (0-3), Bernie Lydon (0-1), Mairéad Walsh (0-1), Martha O'Malley (0-1), Sandra Prendergast (1-7), Kathleen O'Neill.

Carnacon: Kathleen Staunton, Laura Dillon, Beatrice Casey, Catherine Flanagan, Marie Hayes, Mary Heneghan, Yvonne Lally, Michelle Corbett, Sylvia Jordan (1-0), Margaret Hughes (0-1), Niamh Corbett, Cora Staunton (1-1), Helen Malone (0-1), Helen Casey. Subs: Orla Corbett for Marie Hayes; Claire Thomas for Catherine Flanagan.

*From the Western People,  
September 14, 1994*

## Mayo Ladies Intermediate Football Championship Final 2001

### TOURMAKEADY GIRLS LAND TITLE AT SECOND ATTEMPT

Tourmakeady 2-9 Moy Davitts 0-7



Mayo Intermediate County Champions and Connacht finalists 2001. Back: A. Meenaghan, C. Casey, A. Carr, S. Wall, D. Horan, A.M. Ronan, N. O'Shea, C. O'Toole, S. Heneghan, S. Gibbons. Front: S. Lydon, K.A. Heneghan, A. Grimes, D. Lowery, S. Prendergast (capt.), A. Donoghue, C. Heneghan, U. Heneghan, P. Lally. Managers: Cáit Gibbons, John Gibbons, Joe Heneghan.

Tourmakeady, beaten in a replay of last year's semi-final by The Neale, had their hour of glory at Garrymore on Sunday when wearing down the stubborn challenge of Moy Davitts in the county Intermediate Ladies football final. In stark contrast to the senior tie, which preceded it, this was a lively and competitive hour's action, sustaining spectator interest almost to the close.

A spectacular goal by wing-forward Patricia Lally in the 59th minute was the defining moment for Tourmakeady.

Although the aforementioned Patricia Lally opened the scoring with a 7th minute point, Moy Davitts, brimming with the exuberance of youth, were the better side for a long phase in the first





Sharon Wall and Caitriona Casey (No. 13)

half. Triona McNicholas, who had tested Denise Horan's mettle as a goalkeeper as early as the 5th minute, balanced matters in the 11th minute. Moy Davitts finishing was not always on a par with their approach work and chances of scores were let slip. Still, the East Mayo Side deservedly led by 0-4 to 0-1 at the 17th minute, with the scores coming from Triona McNicholas, Stephanie Kneafsey and Jessica Galligan.

Experienced Tourmakeady kept their composure and as the interval loomed, Moy Davitts came under severe defensive strain. Apart from a Shellie Gibbons point, it was not rewarding for Tourmakeady in a scoring sense, and Moy Davitts still had their heads in front at the interval, 0-4 to 0-2. While due recognition must be given to Moy Davitts backline, Shellie Gibbons and Patricia

Lally should have registered goals in the 24th and 28th minutes respectively.

Moy Davitts Sorcha McDonagh and Shellie Gibbons exchanged points soon after the restart, and wind-assisted Tourmakeady intensified the pressure. Emma Galligan, the goalkeeper, foiled a bid for a goal by Shellie Gibbons in the 34th minute, and Gibbons reduced the margin to a single point three minutes later. Sorcha McDonagh countered with a point for the opposition, and another Shellie Gibbons point was supplemented by an Aislinn Donoghue goal, following effective work by Nuala O'Shea, at the end of the third quarter.

Predictably the goal had an uplifting effect on Tourmakeady and points followed in its wake from Shelley Gibbons (two) and Sandra Prendergast. Free-taker Triona McNicholas tried to revive Moy Davitts ailing fortunes by pointing a free, but the Tourmakeady defence, far more vigilant now than earlier on, was in no mood to make any concessions. Patricia Lally,



Joe Heneghan and John Gibbons keeping a watchful eye on proceedings

careering up the field with a sprightly turn of foot, dispelled all Tourmakeady's anxieties by executing a wonderful goal.

Shellie Gibbons, the worthy recipient of the Player of the Match award, Nuala O'Shea, Ciara O'Toole, Siobhán Heneghan, rarely outwitted in the defence, Kathleen Ann Heneghan, Patricia Lally, Sandra Prendergast, Denise Horan and Sharon Wall all had a vital input in fashioning the Tourmakeady success. Moy Davitts had accomplished footballers in Marie Lavin, an inspiring captain Triona McNicholas, Sorcha McDonagh, Stephanie Kneafsey, Roisín Gurry, Áine Clarke, Michelle Ruane and Emma Galligan, and a county title is well within their grasp in the not too distant future. Margaret Byrne, Treasurer of the Mayo County Board, presented the cup to Sandra Prendergast, the Tourmakeady captain.

Scorers for Tourmakeady: P. Lally 1-1, S. Gibbons 0-7, A. Donoghue 1-0, S. Prendergast 0-1. Scorers for Moy Davitts: T. McNicholas 0-3, S. McDonagh 0-2, S. Kneafsey 0-1, J. Galligan 0-1.

Tourmakeady: D. Horan, C. Heneghan, K. A. Heneghan, S. Heneghan, C. O'Toole, U. Heneghan, S. Wall, A.M. Ronan, N. O'Shea, A. Carr, S. Gibbons, P. Lally, C. Casey, S. Prendergast, A. Donoghue. Sub - D. Lowery.

Moy Davitts: E. Galligan, H. Jordan, F. Boyle, L. Higgins, P. Jordan, M. Lavin, R. Guiry, M. Ruane, A. Clarke, J. Galligan, T. McNicholas, A. Hanahoe, S. McDonagh, A. Hughes and S. Kneafsey. Subs - C. McNicholas, A. Dinan.

Referee: P.J. Loftus.

*From an article by Billy Horan in the Connaught Telegraph, August 22, 2001*



Nuala O'Shea



## Mayo Ladies Junior Football Championship Final 2010

### TOURMAK' GIRLS DANCE IN THE DARK

Tourmakeady 2-14 Moy Davitts 2-12  
(after extra time, 0-11 apiece at full-time)



Tourmakeady Ladies celebrate their victory in the Junior county final at Ballyheane on September 18, 2010

Tourmakeady were crowned junior ladies champions in almost total darkness on a rain soaked Ballyheane pitch last Saturday evening. With the treacherous conditions causing numerous injuries to players, the match ran to over two hours in length once stoppages were factored in, causing many on the sidelines to ask if

a replay should've been sought rather than extra-time.

Still, Tourmakeady won't be complaining as they edged over the line first, in a match that swung back and forth like a pendulum. A very strong wind played a crucial role in normal time with both sides capitalising on playing with it.

Tourmakeady completely dominated the first half thanks to a full-forward line consisting of Shellie Ní Giobúin, Pádraicín Ní Mhaolalla and Shauna Ní Bhaircér racking up 0-8 between them, leaving Tourmak' comfortably ahead by 0-8 to 0-3 at the break.

However, with the wind now siding with Moy Davitts, the momentum swung in their favour for the second half. Half-forward Fiona Doherty enjoyed a stormer of a half, heavily involved in the Davitts assault on the Tourmak' goal while midfielder Grace Kelly made some crucial interceptions from Tourmakeady 'keeper Marie Ní Phriondargaíst to add two vital points, leaving the sides level at 0-11 apiece after 60 minutes.

With both sides visibly tiring during extra-time, the match descended into a war of attrition. Tourmakeady struck first with a fine point from Martha Ní Mháille before star forward Pádraicín Ní Mhaolalla put them on the home straight with a blistering strike into the top corner of the net seven minutes later.

Yet Moy Davitts weren't dead, and deep into first half stoppage time a long hopeful ball into the square from Grace Kelly caused pandemonium and in the melee Lisa Corley fisted the ball into the net to close the gap to just a point. Fionnuala Mulroy thought she had won it for the Moysiders with another goal just after the restart but it was Martha Ní Mháille who had the final say as she clinched the title for Tourmakeady with a goal and a point at the death.

Scorers - Tourmakeady: Pádraicín Ní Mhaolalla 1-4 (0-2f), Martha Ní Mháille 1-3, Shellie Ní Giobúin 0-4 (0-1f), Siobhán Ní Éanacháin 0-2, Shauna Ní Bhaircér 0-1. Moy Davitts: Fiona

Doherty 0-4 (2f), Lisa Corley and Fionnuala Mulroy 1-0 each, Tracy Hall, Grace Kelly and Niamh Kelly 0-2 each, Siobhán Wilson and Elisha Lavelle 0-1 each.

TOURMAKEADY: Marie Ní Phriondargaíst, Sorcha Ní Éanacháin, Úna Ní Éanacháin, Martha Ní Éanacháin; Cáitlín Ní Éanacháin, Nuala Ní Shé, Ciara Ní Thuathail, Caitríona de Búrca, Eimear Ní Bhaircér; Siobhán Ní Éanacháin, Martha Ní Mháille. Orla Ní Mheára; Shellie Ní Giobúin, Pádraicín Ní Mhaolalla, Shauna Ní Bhaircér. Subs: Tríona Nic Fhinn (for Sorcha Ní Éanacháin 30), Áine Ní Stundún (for S. Ní Bhaircér 65-inj), Treasa Ní hEithir (for S. Ní Giobúin 75).

MOY DAVITTS: Jodie Murphy, Laura Bourke, Elisha Lavelle, Mairéad Charlton, Fionnuala Mulroy, Deirdre Gallagher, Lydia Rainey, Gráinne Boyle, Grace Kelly, Fiona Doherty, Tracy Hall, Sandra Hall, Lisa Corley, Jessica Galligan, Niamh Kelly. Subs: Siobhán Wilson (for N. Kelly 4-inj), Máire Lavin (for J. Galligan 46), Nadine Rainey (for T. Hall 67), Niamh Kelly (for N. Rainey 70-inj).

Referee: John Burke.

*From an article by Joe Coffey in the Western People, September 21, 2010*







Siobhán Heneghan, captain of the Tourmakeady team, accepts the Junior Championship Cup, September 18, 2010



Pictured at the Tourmakeady Ladies victory celebration night in Tigh Phaidí on December 5, 2010 were Siobhán Heneghan (Ladies captain), Eamonn Gibbons (sponsor of kit bags), Emer Barker (Young Player of the Year), Una Heneghan (Senior Player of the Year), and Seán Kearns (manager).



Tourmakeady Ladies team, Mayo Junior Champions and Connacht finalists, pictured at Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh tournament on August 1, 2010. Back: Michael Kelly (Manager), Seán Kearns (Manager), Marie Maloney, Marie Prendergast, Triona Nic Fhinn, Sandra Prendergast, Emer Barker, Ann Marie Ronan, Catherine Heneghan, Patricia Lally, Síle Kelly, Grace Heneghan, Séamus Hughes (Manager). Front: Ciara O'Toole, Aoife Morrin, Ailbhe McConnell, Shellie Gibbons, Sórcha Heneghan, Martha Ní Mháille, Nuala O'Shea, Martha Heneghan, Siobhán Heneghan (capt.), Una Heneghan, Kathleen Ann Heneghan





The Tourmakeady Ladies "Player of the Year" Award 2009 went to Catherine Burke and Orla Maree, pictured here with team managers Mícheál Heneghan and Seán Kearns at a function in Tigh Phaidí.



The Tourmakeady team that beat Seán O'Heslins (Ballinamore) in the Connacht Ladies Junior Club Championship semi-final at Leitrim Village on October 10, 2010. Back: Séamus Hughes, Michael Kelly, Seán Kearns, Treasa O'Hare, Áine Staunton, Marie Maloney, Orla Maree, Emer Barker, Catherine Burke, Marie Prendergast, Ciara O'Toole, Grace Heneghan, Catherine Heneghan, Síle Kelly, Sadhbh Lally, Mattie Heneghan, Shauna Barker, Sinéad Egan (physio), Seoidín Staunton (with flag). Front: Triona Nic Fhinn, Kathleen Ann Heneghan, Patricia Lally, Martha Heneghan, Sorchá Heneghan, Una Heneghan, Mike Óg Staunton (mascot), Martha Ní Mháille, Siobhán Heneghan, Shellie Gibbons, Nuala O'Shea, Ailbhe McConnell.

Tourmakeady Junior Ladies team that reached the semi-final of the Connacht 7-a-side tournament against An Bhearna at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence, June 15, 2013. Back: Seán Kearns, Kate Hughes, Orla Maree, Emer Barker, Sinéad Nic Aodha, Ruth Heneghan, Orla Kelly, Cristín Ní Éanacháin Stundún. Front: Maeve Maloney, Shauna Barker, Úna Uí Dhonnchadha, Ciara O'Toole, Martha Ní Mháille, Gabrielle Madden.



Foireann Faoi-16 Peil na mBan Thuar Mhic Éadaigh a ghlac páirt sa chomórtas 7-a'-taobh ar Lá an Seó Talmhaíochta i bPáirc Naomh Muire ar Iúil 27, 2014. Ar chúil: Lisa Nic Giobúin, Lauren Ní Chiaráin, Cáit Ní Luideáin, Laura Nic Giobúin, Maeve Stundún, Megan Ní Rónáin, Rachel Breathnach, Róisín Ní Choileáin, Blathnaid Breathnach, Cáit Nic Aonghusa. Chun tosaigh: Linda Nic Dhuarcáin, Mícheála de Búrca, Sorcha Ní Éanacháin (Goirtín Mór), Treasa Nic Aodha, Máire Ní Sheoinín, Róisín Nic Chonaill, Sorcha Ní Éanacháin (Trián), Caoimhe Ní Thuathail.





Foireann Faoi-13 Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, seaimpíní Mhaigh Eo (Roinn 3), Samhain 2014. Ar chúl: Leah Ní Luideáin, Fiona Ní Mhaolmhuaidh, Lauren Ní Chiaráin, Sorchá Ní Éanacháin, Treasa Nic Aodha, Maeve Stundún, Mícheála de Búrca, Cáit Ní Luideáin, Laura Nic Giobúin, Megan Ní Rónáin, Laoise Ní Mhaolruaidh. Chun tosaigh: Ciara Ní Thuathail, Clodagh Nic Giobúin, Jessica Ní Uiginn, Rút Ní Óráin, Amy Stundún, Áine Ní Éanacháin, Máire Ní Éanacháin, Maedhbh Ní Fhaoláin, Ciara Ní Éanacháin, Aoife Ní Mhaolalla.

Mayo Senior footballer and All-Star presented medals to the Girls U-13 County Champions in Halla Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, February 2015. Back: Ciara O'Toole (Manager), Ciara Heneghan, Meadhbh Whelan, Ruth Horan, Aoife Lally, Sarah Heneghan, Michaela Burke, Lee Keegan (Guest of Honour), Lauren Kearns, Laura Gibbons, Therese Hughes, Kate Lydon. Front: Jessica Higgins, Leah Lydon, Laoise Mulroe, Máire Heneghan, Amy Staunton, Maeve Staunton, Rebecca Ronan, Áine Heneghan, Clodagh Gibbons, Fiona Molloy.







Foireann Faoi-14 2015. Ar chúl: Séamus Mac Aodha (Bainisteoir), Aoife Ní Mhaolalla, Sorcha Ní Éanacháin, Mícheála de Búrca, Treasa Nic Aodha, Maeve Stundún, Cáit Ní Luideáin, Lauren Ní Chiaráin, Laoise Ní Mhaolruaidh, Seána Ní Bhaircér (Bainisteoir). Chun tosaigh: Megan Ní Rónáin, Clodagh Nic Giobúin, Fiona Ní Mhaolmhuaidh, Amy Stundún, Laura Nic Giobúin, Leah Ní Luideáin, Jessica Ní Uiginn.

Foireann Sóisir Thuar Mhic Éadaigh a d'imir in aghaidh Acla ar Meitheamh 27, 2015. Ar chúl: Mairtín Ó hÉanacháin (Bainisteoir), Orla Ní Cheallaigh, Rút Ní Éanacháin, Eimear Ní Bhaircér, Cáit Nic Aodha, Maeve Ní Mhaoldhomhnaigh, Orla Ní Mheára, Treasa Nic Aodha, Marcus Ó hÉanacháin (Bainisteoir). Chun tosaigh: Ciara Ní Thuathail, Siobhán Ní Éanacháin, Seána Ní Bhaircér, Máire Ní Sheoinín, Róisín Ní Choileáin, Martha Ní Mháille, Caoimhe Ní Thuathail.







Foireann Mionúir 2015. Ar chúl: Siobhán Ní Éanacháin (Bainisteoir), Cáit Nic Aodha, Sorcha Ní Éanacháin (Goirtín Mór), Orla Ní Cheallaigh, Maeve Ní Mhaoldhomhnaigh, Ceallaigh Ní Rónáin, Sinéad Nic Giobúin, Megan Ní Rónáin, Rút Ní Éanacháin, Aoife Ní Éanacháin, Martha Ní Mháille (Bainisteoir). Chun tosaigh: Máire Ní Sheoinín, Mícheála de Búrca, Rachel Breathnach, Treasa Nic Aodha, Cáit Ní Luideáin, Lauren Ní Chiaráin, Caoimhe Ní Thuathail, Róisín Ní Choileáin, Maeve Stundún. As láthair: Cáit Uí Ghiobúin (Bainisteoir), Bláthnaid Breathnach, Laura Nic Giobúin, Lisa Nic Giobúin, Sorcha Ní Éanacháin (Trian).

Jessica Ní Uiginn ag imirt ar fhoireann Faoi-12 Thuar Mhic Éadaigh in aghaidh Cumann Caide na Gaeltachta (Ciarraí) i bPáirc an Chrócaigh ar Lá na Gaeilge, Márta 30, 2015





## ***Memories of Ladies Football in the 1980s***

*by Bernie Dolan Heveran, Chicago*



Tourmakeady Ladies football team 1984. Back: Brian Gibbons (selector), Siobhán Lally, Kathleen Walsh, Kathleen Heneghan, Judy Heneghan, Mary Walsh, Ann Ronan, Mary Ann Dolan, Mattie Heneghan (trainer). Front: Eileen O'Neill, Bríd Walsh, Peggie Heneghan, Patricia Dolan (capt.), Bríd Heneghan, Bernie O'Neill, Bernie Dolan, Mary A. Folan, C. Durkan. Missing from photo: Margaret Horan, Kathleen Lally, Bridie Dolan, Bernie Coyne, Eithne Heverin, Liz Casey.

I was a member of the Tourmakeady Ladies football team that played in several county finals in the early 1980s. As the years pass, our memories slack off a little but here are a few of my recollections of our great awesome first Ladies football team.

I remember Mr. John Callan moving from the North to Tourmakeady, I believe he was the founder of the brilliant Tourmakeady Ladies football team. We formed a squad with Heneghans, Lallys, Ronans, Walshes, Gibbons, Lydons, O'Neills and Dolans on our squad. We also had a few girls

from outside the parish who worked at Gaeltarra Knitwear and played with us. Often on Tuesday and Thursday evenings these girls would not go on the bus home from Gaeltarra but instead stayed in Dolans, Ronans or Lallys so that they could make the team, - a massive commitment. Thanks to the late and great Martin Heaney who donated the use of his land to the GAA so that we had a football pitch. There were a few holes in the field and you could easily turn an ankle really fast if you didn't watch out, but after a while we knew where they were and how to avoid them. Most of us walked to Heaney's field, - it was three miles each way twice



a week but we had the love of the game and we didn't care. Our biggest rivals were Cong ... it was down to the wire every game, goal for goal, point for point. Our biggest achievement was winning the county title in MacHale Park. We beat a strong Bonniconlon team who had held the title for many years previously. The great Willie Barker got us into shape to take that title.

On a final note I would like to thank all of our supporters back then, we had as many supporters as any men's football team. A special thank you to my own Dad, Paddy Dolan (RIP) who never missed a game. My Mom never went to a game, she was afraid her four girls would get hurt, RIP Mom. And our No.2 supporter was Paddy Walsh Derryveeney RIP, a loyal and true supporter. Best wishes to Tourmakeady Ladies footballers in the future and thank you for all the wonderful memories.

## Ó Scoil na Sraithe go Páirc an Chrócaigh

by Martha Ní Mháille

Is pribhléid domsa mo scéal a insint agus gabhaim buíochas le Michael a d'iarr orm mo chuimhní peile a roinnt libh. Tá sé breis agus scór bliain ó thosaigh mé ag imirt peile agus cé gur sciort na blianta sin tharam i bpreabadh na súl rinne mé cairde agus cuimhní cinn nach scarfaidh mé uaim go deo.

My earliest memory of Gaelic football is being glued to a 12" black and white television watching the 1989 All-Ireland final between Mayo and the Rebel County. I was only 8 years old at the time but I vividly recall the excitement and exhilaration I felt watching that battle in Páirc an Chrócaigh. Little did I know that a

decade later, I'd be given the opportunity to play on that same stage when myself and my club mates Nuala, Shellie and Denise played on the Mayo Senior Ladies team that brought the Brendan Martin Cup back to the county for the first time.

Looking back to that All-Ireland victory in 1999, I don't think it was



Mayo Ladies Homecoming 1999 - Martha Ní Mháille lifts Sarah O'Malley into the Brendan Martin Cup.



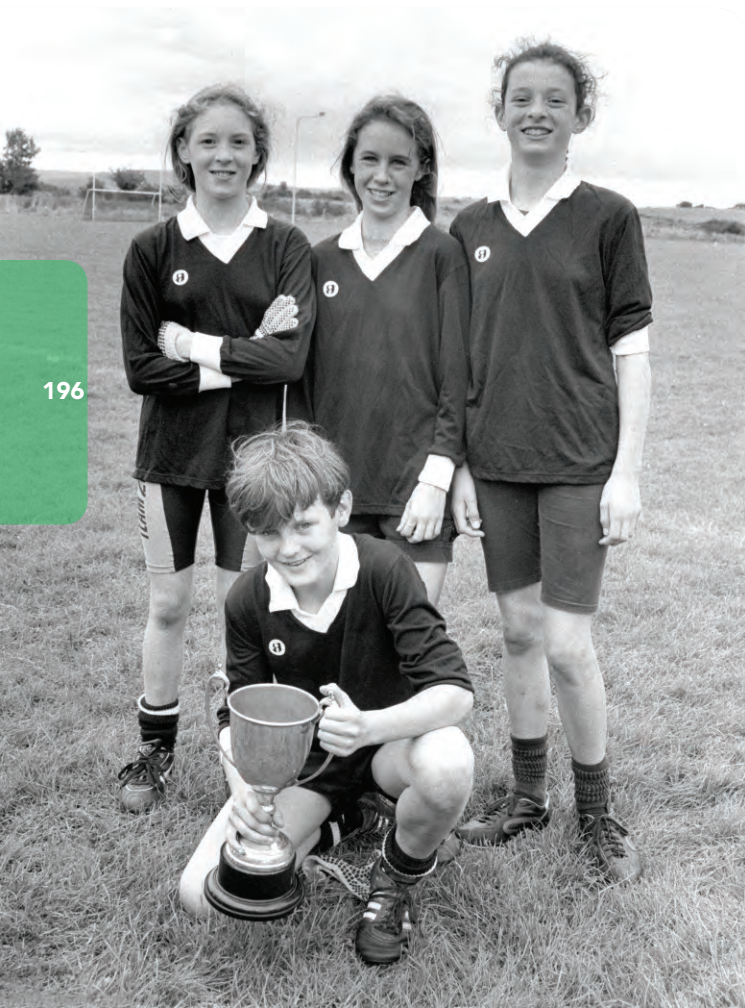
Michael Meenaghan embraces Nuala O'Shea.

until we landed at the homecoming in Tourmakeady that the enormity of what we had achieved sunk in. I'll never forget turning the corner at Flynn's post office to be greeted by all my neighbours and relatives cheering and shouting. Glued to my heart and mind is the bouquet of flowers from my neighbours pinned to

the door of my home. Tourmakeady was thronged, bonfires were blazing, bunting and Mayo flags were soaring in the sky. We were treated like heroes. I remember realising "Muintir Thuar Mhic Éadaigh" are really proud of us. The big smile on my Granda's face will never slip from my memory. It said it all. Martin Heaney was a proud man that evening and I of him, knowing the important part he had played in the earlier days of our club. The whole experience was magical. If I had one opportunity to travel back in time, I'd love to experience that evening all over again.

Although I was lucky to have success with the county team, it's within the GAA community of Tuar Mhic Éadaigh that many of my proudest moments and fondest memories lie. I have an abundance of happy footballing memories from my school days. I'm proud of the triumphs of Coláiste Muire's Senior Ladies team. Even if the All-Ireland medal eluded us, reaching an "A" All-Ireland Final with a school the size of the Coláiste was no mean feat. Winning the Cumann na mBunscol girls "B" county title in 1993 with Scoil Náisiúnta na Sraithe will always have a special place in my heart. I think that the fact all the girls on that team lived almost a stone's throw away from one another (well across the fields anyway!) makes that medal extra special. Girls, do ye remember our group of cheerleaders chanting "An tSraith Abú", led by Michael Meenaghan (aka Rock) followed by all the other proud parents and Eddie with his suit, collar and tie?

When Pat Naughton, co-manager of the U-12 boys team, caught wind of our victory in the Cumann na mBunscol competition, he came a-chasing! So myself, my sister Aoife, and Lorraine O'Neill joined the Tourmakeady U-12 boys team.



In 1993, Martha Ní Mháille, Lorraine O'Neill and Aoife Ní Mháille showed the boys that they could play too! They are pictured here with Michael James Meenaghan after winning the West Mayo U-12 "B" Championship. All four went on to wear the Mayo county jersey with distinction. Photo: Tommy Eibrand.





Tourmakeady Ladies GFA dinner dance at Tigh Phaidí, December 2010. Back: Marie Prendergast, Catherine Burke, Orla Maree, Mattie Heneghan, Catherine Heneghan, Síle Kelly, Marie Maloney, Saidhbh Lally, Patricia Lally, Sorchá Heneghan, Ruth Heneghan, Ailbhe McConnell, Theresa O'Hare, Shauna Barker, Ann Marie Ronan, Michael Kelly, Séamus Hughes. Front: Grace Heneghan, Ciara O'Toole, Martha Ní Mháille, Una Heneghan, Siobhán Heneghan, Fiona Heneghan, Emer Barker, Seán Kearns.

That was my first outing in the club jersey and it was a memorable season. Pat and Jim Callaghan guided us to a West Mayo title that year; cousin John Myles lifted the cup and I was awarded my second GAA medal. I think that taste of victory at a young age made me hungry for more success. I was hooked on Gaelic football from that moment on. Maybe the boy-girl mix helped!

That same year, a handful of 12/13 year olds, myself included, started playing with the Tourmak' Ladies Senior team. Looking back on it now, I

know we drove the more mature panel members crazy at times with our constant giggling and chatting. Even so, they took us under their wings and encouraged, mentored and supported us. To this day I remember the tactics and advice dished out at those training sessions. Even though we had the misfortune of losing both the Junior Championship and League county finals to Ballinrobe in 1993, we made up for it the following year when we were crowned Junior County champions with a good win over Carnacon. At the time, I didn't realise the

importance of that victory nor did I realise that club medals are few and far between. Unfortunately, it would be quite some time before I'd win a county club medal again. Thankfully, in 2010, after extra time and a serious battle with Moy Davitts, we captured the Junior County title for the second time in the club's history. I treasure that medal and having waited 16 years for it, I now appreciate how elusive a county club medal can be. Tourmakeady ladies club did experience success during that 16 year period, - they won an Intermediate title in 2001. For one reason or another I was on a sabbatical from football that year so that's one medal I missed out on. What a year to decide I needed a break from football – hands down my main sporting regret !

While victory is always sweet, there so many other elements I love about the game: the many strong friendships that I've made; the sense of community spirit and identity; the 60 minutes during a game when you switch off from all else; chasing after the

ball like your life depends on it; that feeling you get when you know you've left everything on the pitch; the day when you're playing out of your skin and you can do no wrong; the one-liner from

someone in the crowd that gets the banter going on championship Sunday. I could go on forever! I love my football nickname "Mazy" and the phrase "Heaney's field". And now that I've replaced the mature ladies that were there for me, I love encouraging and supporting the giggling, giddy girls.

I'm blessed to be a member of a community who value Gaelic football so highly and down through the years many people showed a genuine interest in my development and well-being as a player. I'm proud to say that the majority of those were locals, too numerous to mention. To my family (particularly, Mum and Dad, for driving me the length and breadth

of the country), my management teams and my club mates I'm most thankful. My hope is that I can be as positive an influence on future generations as ye have been for me.



Martha Ní Mháille, Laoch na hImearthra i gCluiche Ceannais Mhaigh Eo, Páirc Bhéal Átha hÉin, 18 Meán Fómhar, 2010.



## Cúpla Focal le Bernie Ní Néill, Réalt Mhaigh Eo

I rith mí Aibreán 2015, chuir Joe Joe Mac Donnacha cúpla ceisteanna ar Bhernie Ní Néill agus é ag ulmhú píosa faoi stair CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh do Raidio na Gaeltachta ...

***Bernie, chaith tú roinnt blianta ar fhoireann peil na mban Mhaigh Eo?***

Chaith mé, bhí mé aon bhliain déag ag imirt le Maigh Eo.

***Agus d'éirigh leat Craobh na hÉireann a bhaint amach leo ag an am sin?***

D'éirigh linn i 1987, bhuaigh muid an Craobh Mionúir agus an Craobh Sóisir agus ansin i 1993 bhuaigh muid an Craobh Sóisir B.

***B'iontach an rud é sin do chlub beag Gaeltachta ionadaí a bheith acu ar an bhfoireann Chontae?***

Ah, b'iontach an rud é mar bhí cúpla againn, bhí mo dheirfiúr freisin ar an bhfoireann ag an am sin ag imirt le Maigh Eo agus ba mhór an onóir é. Agus freisin, téann sé ag leibhéal níos difriúil agus níos airde agus is féidir leat é sin a thabhairt ar ais chuig do chumann féin.

***Agus a Bhernie, an raibh sé deacair ansin an dá thrá a fhreastal nuair a bhí tú ag imirt don Chontae agus ag imirt dod' chlub ag an am céanna?***

Bhuel, bhí sé deacair ag an am sin mar, b'fhéidir dhá tráthnóna sa tseachtain bheadh tú ag traenáil

le do chlub agus b'fhéidir dhá uair sa tseachtain ag traenáil le do chontae, agus b'fhéidir cluiche ag an deireadh seachtaine agus bhí sé deacair. Agus ní raibh tú ag iarraidh an club a ligean síos mar is leosan an áit a thosaigh tú. Bhí sé deacair ach bhain mé an-taitneamh as, caithfidh mé a rá.

***Agus d'éirigh leat Gradam na Réalta a bhaint amach?***

Bhí an t-ádh liom na réalta All-Stars a bhaint amach i 1993 agus 1995 mar lánchúláí.

***Agus mar deir muid ar ball, caithfidh sé gur chiallaigh sé go leor don chumann?***

Ba éacht mór é don pharóiste. Bhí siad an-bhródúil asam, an gradam sin a bhaint amach agus ag an am sin bhí na cailíní óga agus na buachaillí óga ag teacht suas agus amach anseo b'fhéidir go bhféadfaidh siadsan é sin a dhéanamh arís.



Bernie O'Neill

# JUVENILE FOOTBALL

There is something wonderful about watching a juvenile football match: the sense of joy and excitement that surrounds it, the carefree patterns of play devoid of cynicism, the deft skills so beautifully executed. Juvenile football is the foundation of every club, the place where talent is nurtured, values are fostered, and strong bonds of friendship are forged.

The earliest mention of juvenile football in the parish of Ballyovey is in September 1944 when a columnist in the *Western People* mentioned that the Partry juveniles took on their Ballintubber counterparts in a series of challenge games. The Horan brothers, Billy and Aidan, complained to the reporter that their chief difficulty was obtaining football boots: "We can't get them, not even in Galway!". A few years later, in November 1949, the men of Tourmakeady played Partry in Gorteenmore and the *Mayo News* noted that "at the same venue Tourmakeady Juveniles had a good win over Srath."

During the 1950s, there was no organised football in the parish but some boys as young as 14 or 15 years of age played adult football in those years in seven-a-side tournaments with Partry or Tourmakeady teams.

In 1960, Partry Minor Football Club was founded. Joe Mulrooney from Partry, who became the first secretary of the Mayo Minor Board, was one of the main instigators. Although there were a number of Partry boys on this team, including Tom Staunton (Tooreen) and J.J. Newell who both played with Mayo Minors in 1962, it was effectively the Ballintubber Minor team going by

another name. The "Partry" Minors reached the West Mayo final of 1962.

Following the establishment of Tourmakeady GAA club in 1965, confusion arose when both Tourmakeady and Partry decided to enter Minor teams in the West Mayo competitions in 1967. Joe Mulrooney was called upon to rectify the situation.

Tourmakeady did field a Minor team in 9-a-side and 11-a-side competitions that year. In April 1968, Tourmakeady GAA club appointed a Minor sub-committee with Michael Meenaghan as captain and Mícheál Ó Broin as manager. However, a few weeks later, it was decided to amalgamate with Ballintubber "on a temporary basis". From 1968 to 1970, Tourmakeady joined forces with Ballintubber and Balla at Minor level under the banner of "St. Patrick's". This amalgamated team won the West Mayo Minor championship in 1970. However, it was noted at the 1970 AGM of Tourmakeady GAA club that only a few Tourmakeady players were on the St. Patrick's team, and much more needed to be done to promote juvenile football in the parish. From 1971 onwards, Tourmakeady broke away and fielded their own teams at U-14, U-16 and Minor



Joe Mulrooney, Partry



level. There was no U-12 or national schools football in those days, except for occasional games played at local festivals.

At the 1975 AGM which was held on January 20th 1976, the club took the step of appointing two underage officers: Mícheál Ó Broin and Pádraig Ó Cualáin. To these two men goes the credit for putting juvenile football on a solid footing in the club. Mícheál Molloy, who was a star player on the U-16 team of 1981 that brought the first county underage title to Tourmakeady, remembers those days:



Mícheál Ó Broin

*“Mícheál Ó Broin and Pádraig ‘Dan’ were a big influence on us starting out. They were the two men who really got underage football going on an organised basis in Tourmakeady in the 1970s. We used to pile into their two cars, seven or eight of us in the back, and off we would go to games around the county.”*

1979 was a milestone year for Tourmakeady at underage level. The U-14 team coached by Billy Hennelly reached the West Mayo final for the first time ever, and the U-16 team coached by Willie Feeley and Denis Harrington won the West Mayo final. The U-16s contested the West Mayo final three years in a row (1979-'81), and in 1981 went

all the way to winning the county title against Garrymore. There were a number of outstanding players on that team such as Michael O'Malley, Joe Dolan, Mícheál Molloy and Michael Horan, all of whom played for Mayo.

In 1987, Tourmakeady won the county U-12 “B” title for the first time with players such as Adrian Farragher, John and Joe Heneghan, Seán Folan, Stephen Heneghan, Ciarán Walsh, Colm Ó Conghaile, and Michael Staunton on board, all who later helped the club win the 1998 Junior Championship. Then came along another group of outstanding young players: the 1989 U-10 team photograph that appears in the following pages includes no less than five players who went on to wear the Mayo jersey, namely Brendan Prendergast, Brian and Tom Naughton, Michael James Meenaghan and Damien Heneghan.

In recent years, the club has won several underage titles and Shane Staunton, Darren Kelly, Maidhc de Búrca, Danny Walsh, Stephen Staunton, Aaron Conroy, Martin Prendergast, Eoin Staunton, Mícheál Egan, Darragh McConnell, and Frank Carr are amongst those who have progressed through to adult level.

Through the work of Tom Naughton and Dennis Harrington, an exciting Coaching Plan was launched at the beginning of 2015. It can be seen in action in Páirc Naomh Muire every Sunday morning when 60 children and several mentors take to the field. These are our players of the future and we wish them many years of enjoyment and success wearing the black and white.





U-14 West Mayo Finalists 1979. Back: Billy Hennelly, M. O'Malley, C. Lally, T. Gavin, J. Dolan, P. Heneghan, V. O'Neill, T. Derrig, J. Harrington, P. Gibbons, M. Farragher, M. Heneghan, Willie Feeley. Front: P. Lydon, T.J. Lally, D. Gavin, M. Horan, P. Folan, M. Molloy (capt.), D. Harrington, M. Horan, M. Burke, M. Staunton, J. McHale.



U-16 West Mayo Champions and County Finalists 1979. Back: Denis Harrington Sr., John O'Malley, Gerard Burke, Mícheál O'Malley, Willie Barker, Seán Derrig, Pádraig Morrin, Tomás Molloy, Willie Feeley. Front: Martin Lydon, John Mulrooney, Mícheál Molloy, Joe Lally, Dennis Harrington, Brian Gibbons, Martin Harrington, Conor O'Toole, Anthony Barnicle, Seán Lydon. © Photo: Liam Lyons





Tuar Mhic Éadaigh  
U-12/U-13 team 1984.  
Back: Peadar Barker,  
John Joe Lydon, Mikey  
Sheridan, Festus Folan,  
Austin O'Neill, Noel  
Molloy, Pat Walsh, John  
O'Brien, Dan O'Brien.  
Middle: Séan Óg Molloy,  
Philip Walsh, Pádraig  
Heneghan, Tom  
Staunton, Stephen  
Heneghan, Jimmy Ronan,  
John Lydon, John  
Munroe. Front: Gerry  
Lydon, John Gibbons RIP,  
James Prendergast,  
Tommy Lally.  
Photo: Tom Campbell.



Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-14 team 1984. Back: Jimmy Ronan, Peadar Barker, Michael Walsh, Mattie Ronan, Declan O'Shea, Vincent Heneghan, Dermot Ronan, Séan Ó Sé (Bainisteoir). Front: Francis Burke, Séan Óg Molloy, John Joe Lydon, Austin O'Neill, Tommy Joe Thornton, Festus Folan, John O'Shea (mascot), Mikey Sheridan, Séan Mulroe, John Lydon. Photo: Tom Campbell.





Tuair Mhic Éadaigh Minor team 1988, West Mayo "B" Championship finalists. Back: John Munroe, Vincent Heneghan, Austin O'Neill, Philip Walsh, Pat Walsh, Liam O'Malley, Mike Walsh, Jonathan O'Neill, Mattie Ronan, Seán Óg Molloy, Michael Philbin. Front: John Joe Lydon, Tommie Lally, Mickey Sheridan, John Lydon, Noel Molloy, Declan O'Shea, Frank Carr, Michael Heneghan, Seán Heneghan, Eamon Lally, Ger Lydon.  
© Photo: Frank Dolan.



Foireann Faoi-12 Thuar Mhic Éadaigh 1987, Seaimpíní Craobh "B" an Chontae. Ar chúl: Breandán Ó hÉanacháin, Tomás Ó Brian, Adrian Ó Fearrachair, Seán Ó hÉanacháin, Séamus Mac Dhuardáin, Pádraig Ó Rónáin, Stiofán Ó Rónáin, P. S. Ó Sioradáin, Seán Ó Cualáin, Dónal de Búrca, Máirtín Ó Maolruaidh. Dara sraith: Séamus de Phriondargáis, Pádraig Ó Connacháin, Tomás Stundún (captaen), Stiofán Ó hÉanacháin, Brian Ó hIonnghaile, Peadar Ó Sioradáin, Ciarán Breathnach, Colm Ó Conghaile, Conrad Mac Giobúin. Chun tosaigh: Mícheál Stundún, Tomás Seosamh Ó hÉanacháin, Tomás Ó Rónáin. Scór deireanach: Tuair Mhic Éadaigh 5-7 Baile an Chaisil 0-2.





The Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-10 team that participated in 1989 Partry Community Sports. Back: John Farragher, Tomás McHale, Aidan Gibbons, Kevin Sullivan, Tomás Folan, Danny Cox, Brendan Prendergast, John Joyce. Front: Niall Philbin, Brian Naughton, Michael James Meeneghan, Damien Heneghan, Tomás Naughton, Patrick Staunton, Shane Lally. The team trainers were Jim Callaghan and John Farragher.



Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-16 team 1991. Back: Mickey Hennelly, Brian Hennelly, John Casey, James O'Neill, Donal Burke, Pat Conway, Michael Staunton, Colm Ó Conghaile, Ciarán Walsh, Stephen Ronan, Martin Gibbons, Pat Burke. Front: Michael Collins, Patrick Ronan, Stephen Heneghan, Joe Heneghan, Adrian Farragher (capt.), John O'Shea, John Donoghue, John Heneghan, Seán Folan, P.J. Sheridan, Conrad Gibbons.



U-16 Lawrence O'Connor Memorial Tournament 1991. Jimmy Lally (Ballintubber) presents Adrian Farragher with the cup after Tuar Mhic Éadaigh beat Ballintubber in the final by 6-12 to 0-5. Also in picture are Tommy Heneghan and Mickey Hennelly. In his acceptance speech, Adrian Farragher dedicated the win to their team mate Pádraic Mulroe who died suddenly while playing for Tourmakeady U-16s on July 16th 1991



Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-16 team, West Mayo finalists 1995. Back: Tom Naughton, Brian Naughton, Mícheál O'Neill, Martin Coyne, Adrian Lally, John Joyce, Michael Lally, Brendan Horan. Front: Ruairí Conroy, Danny Cox, Damien Heneghan, Mark Conway, Gary Sullivan, Michael James Meenaghan, Brendan Prendergast.





Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-10 team at the Mulroe Cup tournament, Tourmakeady Agricultural Show Day, July 2002. Back: Liam Coyne, Joe Keane, Pádraig Philbin, James Grant, Michael Kelly, Mark Durkin, Edward Gibbons, Louise Staunton. Front: Danny Walsh, Seán Philbin, Mícheál O'Malley, Sórcha Heneghan, Shane Staunton, Aaron Conroy, Tomás Seoighe, Ciarán Keane, Aidan Shoevlin, Eoin Staunton.



Martin Prendergast in the U-10 Mulroe Cup, 2004



Tomás Egan in the U-10 Lally Cup, 2006





Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-10 team 2006. Back: David Harrington, Ruth Heneghan, Sam Forde, Kevin Lally, Maidhc de Búrca, Darragh McConnell, Jack Forde, Kenny Gibbons, Mickey Joyce, Emma McDonald, Kate Hughes, Clodagh McDonald. Front: Frank Carr, Tomás Egan, Pat Joyce, Cathal Cronin, Danny Walsh, Orla Kelly, Mícheál Seoighe, Cathal Staunton, Ciarán Staunton, Liam Kennedy.

Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí. Four years later, here is the same group of players.  
Mayo U-14 League (Division 5) Champions, MacHale Park, Castlebar, June 27, 2010







Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-8 team 2005.  
Back: Ciarán Staunton, Liam Kennedy, Ciarán Flannelly, Sam Forde, Kenny Gibbons, Darragh McConnell, Kelly Ronan, Tomás Egan, Mícheál Seoighe. Front: Cathal Staunton, Pat Joyce, Brian Heneghan, Frank Carr, Orla Kelly, Ruth Heneghan, Cathal Cronin. Managers: Frankie Carr, Michael Kelly, Pádraig Forde.

The Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-14 team that participated in the Lough Mask Football Blitz at Páirc Naomh Muire on July 5, 2008. Back: Síle Kelly, Ciara Burke, Grace Heneghan, Marie Maloney, Martin Prendergast, Darren Kelly (Captain), Seán Philbin, Martin Lally, Aoife Morrin. Front: Kevin Lally, Danny Walsh, David Feerick, Frank Carr, Pádraig Durcan, Kieran Keane, Aidan Shoevlin, Shane Staunton. Other members of panel missing from photograph: Eoin Staunton, Mícheál Egan, Maidhc de Búrca, Darragh Berry, Daniel Kennedy, Ailbhe McConnell. This was the last year in which girls were permitted to play in boys competitions above grade of U-12.





The Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-14 team that played Ballintubber in the 2009 Abbey Cup final in Ballintubber. Back: Kenneth Gibbons, Luke Mulroe, Darragh Berry, Joseph Gibbons, Mícheál Egan, Aidan Shoevlin, Kevin Lally. Front: Mícheál Seoighe, Danny Walsh, Frank Carr, Mikey Jennings, Ciarán Staunton, David Harrington. Photo: Louis Walsh.



The Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-16 team that won the County 11-a-side Championship in 2009 by defeating Louisburgh in Islandeady. Back: Martin Lally (assistant manager), Brian Gibbons, Darren Kelly, Martin Prendergast, James Grant, Daniel Kennedy, Eoin Staunton, Seán Philbin, Colm Ó Conghaile (manager/coach). Front: Vinny Dolan, Stephen Heneghan, Stephen Staunton, Aaron Conroy (capt.), Tom Currid, Tomás Seoighe, Matthew Heneghan, Shane Staunton, Kieran Keane, Martin Lally, Denis Cronin (No. 1 supporter). Missing: Michael Lang (assistant manager). © Photo: Michael Donnelly.



Photo: © Michael Donnelly





Aaron Conroy (left) and Martin Morrin (right) in action with Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Minors in 2010

Mayo U-14 League (Division 5) Champions, MacHale Park, Castlebar, June 27, 2010. Back: Martin Ronan (Chicago), Joseph Gibbons, Kevin Lally, Darragh McConnell, Frank Carr, Jack Forde, David Harrington, Mickey Joyce, Luke Mulroe, Kenneth Gibbons. Front: James Daly, Michael Morrin, Cathal Staunton, Sam Forde, Stephen Staunton, Maidhc Burke (capt.), Pat Joyce, Ciarán Staunton, Mícheál Seoighe, Danny Walsh. Final score: Tuar Mhic Éadaigh 5-11 St. Gerard's 2-5.





U-16 County 11-a-side Champions 2010.  
Back: Darragh Berry, Martin Prendergast (capt.), Eoin Staunton, Darren Kelly, Seán Philbin, Shane Staunton, Mícheál Egan. Front: Jack Forde, Martin Lally, Kevin Lally, Danny Walsh, Maidhc de Búrca, Aidan Shoevin. Final score: Tuar Mhic Éadaigh 4-7 Bonnicconlon 3-9, played at Parke on September 26, 2010.



Vincent Neary, secretary of Mayo Bord na nÓg, presents Tuar Mhic Éadaigh captain Martin Prendergast with the County U-16 11-a-side Championship Cup in 2010.



Michael Kelly was a key player for the Minor team that won the Summer League in 2010.





Buachaillí agus Cailíní Faoi-12 Thuar Mhic Éadaigh i bPáirc an Chrócaigh ar Lá na Gaelige 2010. Ar chúl: Proinnsíós Ó Cáirr, Seán Seoighe, Pádraig Ó Loideáin, Peadar Seoighe, Diolúin Ó Maolrua, Proinnsíós Ó Cáirr, Pádraig Seoighe, Mícheál Ó Muirín, Stiofán Stundún, Tomás Mac Aodhagáin, Cian Mac Giobúin, Tomás Ó Faoláin. Chun tosaigh: Siobhán Ní Fhloinn, Megan Ní Rónáin, Máire Ní Cháirr, Áine Ní Mhaolmhuaidh, Labhrás Ó Connaláin, Oisín Ó Faoláin, Aoife Ní Éanacháin, Róisín Nic Chonaill, Brian Ó hÉanacháin, Roibéard Ó Seibhleáin, Adam Ó Maolrua, Pattie Stundún Uí Aodhagáin.



Roibéard Ó Seibhleáin ag imirt in aghaidh Carna-Caiseal



Mícheál Ó Muirín ar an ionsaigh i gcoinne Bearna





The Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Minor team that beat Kilmovee Shamrocks in the Summer League Final on September 18, 2010 at Mayo Abbey. Back: Darren McNeely, Eoin Staunton, Kevin Staunton, Seán Flannery, Tomás Seoighe, Vinny Dolan, Tom Currid, Shane Staunton, Aaron Conroy, Michael Morrin (manager). Front: Martin Prendergast, Martin Lally, Pádraig Philbin, Cillian O'Connor (Mayo Minor captain, guest of honour), Stephen Staunton, Edward Gibbons, James Grant, Michael Kelly. Missing: Martin Morrin, Stephen Heneghan (manager). Final score: Tuar Mhic Éadaigh 4-11 Kilmovee Shamrocks 2-12.



Frank Carr was presented with Club Person of the Year Award 2010 at the Tuar Mhic Éadaigh GAA dinner dance in recognition of his great service for many years with juvenile teams.



Two-in-a-row! Mayo footballer Cillian O'Connor pictured with Tuar Mhic Éadaigh's U-16 Championship winning captains, Martin Prendergast (2010) and Aaron Conroy (2009) at the club's Bord na nÓg celebration evening on December 16, 2010.





CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh Bord na nÓg Awards Night, December 16, 2010. From left: Frankie Carr (U-16 Mentor), Jack Forde (U-14 Captain for League), Stephen Staunton (U-16 Assistant), James Grant (U-16 Team Manager), Michael Morrin (Minor Manager), Martin Prendergast (U-16 Captain), Pádraig Philbin (Minor Captain), Cillian O'Connor (Guest of Honour – Mayo Minors Captain), Michael Kelly (Minor Vice-Captain), Pat Burke (U-14 Manager), Maidhc Burke (U-14 Captain for Championship), Pádraig Forde (U-14 Assistant), Jim Durkin (Chairman), Michael Lang (Secretary), Seán Seoighe (U-14 Assistant). The trophies on display are, from left: U-16 "C" Football Championship Cup, Ladies Junior Football Championship Cup, Sweeney Cup (Intermediate Football Championship), U-14 "D" Football Championship Shield, Minor Summer League Shield,





Minor 11-a-side County League Div. 5 Champions, Mac Hale Park, July 9, 2011. Back: Michael Morrin (manager), Seán Philbin, Martin Prendergast, Darragh Berry, Mícheál Egan, James Grant, Tom Currid, Eoin Staunton, Vinny Dolan, Stephen Heneghan (manager). Front: Shane Staunton, Stephen Staunton, Tomás Seoighe, Aidan Shoevlin, Aaron Conroy, Darren Kelly, Danny Walsh, Martin Lally. Final score: Tuar Mhic Éadaigh 3-12 Kilmovee Shamrocks 2-6.



U-14 County League Div. 5 Champions, Mac Hale Park, June 4, 2011. Behind: Pat Burke and Pádraig Forde. Back row: Tom Whelan, Darragh McConnell, Kevin Byrne, Tomás Egan, Michael Morrin, Liam Kennedy, Frank Carr, Adam Mulroe, Seán Heneghan, Seán O'Brien, Máirtín Carr, Seán Seoighe, Eoin Conaboy. Front: Michael Conaboy, Patrick Lydon, Robbie Shoevlin, Cathal Cronin, Cathal Staunton, Brian Heneghan, Nora Carr (mascot), Sam Forde, Ciarán Staunton, Dylan Mulroe, Stephen Staunton, Oisín Whelan. Final score: Tuar Mhic Éadaigh 3-12 St. Gerard's 2-7 (AET).





U-14 County "D" Champions, July 29, 2012 at MacHale Park. Back: Frankie Carr, Adam Mulroe, Jack Horan, Seán Heneghan, Oisín Whelan, Pádraig Lydon, Frank Carr, Cian Gibbons, Seán Seoighe, Conor Gibbons, Tom Whelan. Front: Máirtín Carr, Dylan Mulroe, Mícheál Conboy, Robbie Shoevlin, Tomás Egan, Michael Morrin, Eoin Conboy, Seán Tiernan, Stephen Staunton. Final Score: Tuar Mhic Éadaigh 3-20 Claremorris 6-4. At the same venue on the same day, the Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Minor team also won their county championship.



How the boy has grown! Left: Frankie Carr and Frank Junior at the Horan Cup in Clogher, April 2002. Centre: Together again at the Lá na Gaeilge blitz in Croke Park, April 2010. Right: Frank Carr accepting the U-14 County Championship Shield following his team's victory at MacHale Park, July 29, 2012.





Minor County 11-a-side Champions at MacHale Park, July 29 2012. Back: Aaron Conroy (selector), Mícheál Egan (injured for final), Darragh Berry, Martin Prendergast, Maidhc de Búrca, Danny Walsh, Jack Forde, Aidan Shoevlin, Martin Lally, Kevin Lally, James Grant (manager). Front: Matthew Heneghan (selector), Seán Philbin, Eoin Staunton, Darren Kelly, Mícheál Seoighe, Frank Carr, Shane Staunton, Stephen Staunton (selector). © Photo: Michael Donnelly. Final score: Tuar Mhic Éadaigh 3-8 Parke-Keellogues-Crimlin 3-7.



Eoin Staunton and Darren Kelly, joint captains of Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Minors, accept the Shield from Vincent Neary, Mayo Bord na nÓg Secretary, following their victory in the County Minor 11-a-side Championship Final in MacHale Park on July 29, 2012. © Photo: Michael Donnelly.





Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-16 team, West Mayo Champions, challenged An Fhairche in the first game to be played under the new floodlights at Páirc Naomh Muire on December 1, 2012. Back: Sam Forde, David Harrington, Kevin Lally, Frank Carr, Jack Forde, Maidhc de Búrca, Darragh McConnell, Pádraig de Búrca. Front: Stephen Staunton, Tomás Egan, Cathal Staunton, Mícheál Seoighe, Joseph Gibbons, Danny Walsh (capt.), Cathal Cronin, Ciarán Staunton.



Eoin Staunton (joint captain of Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Minor team, county champions), Danny Geraghty (Mayo U-21 Captain and Senior panellist), Mike Connelly (Vice-Chairperson of Mayo Co. Board), Frank Carr (captain of Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-14 team, county champions) and Darren Kelly (joint captain of Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Minors) at the presentation of county championship medals on the occasion of turning on of new floodlights in Páirc Naomh Muire, December 1, 2012.





Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-14 team, League Finalists 2013. Back: Frank Carr (Assistant Manager), Adam Mulroe, Oisín Whelan, Seán Seoighe, Cian Gibbons, Stephen Staunton, Larry Conlon, Dylan Mulroe, Seán Molloy, Tom Whelan (Manager). Front: Jack Horan, Seán O'Brien, Máirtín Carr, Jamie Walsh, Pádraig Lydon (capt.), Seán Tiernan, Seán Heneghan, Conor Gibbons.

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Foireann Faoi-16 Tuar Mhic Éadaigh a d'imir in aghaidh Coill Mhíodhna i gCraobh Iar-Mhaigh Eo ar Lúnasa 26, 2014. Ar chúl: Conchubhair Mac Giobúin, Darach de Phriondargáist, Adam Ó Maolruaidh, Diolún Ó Maolruaidh, Labhras Ó Connaláin, Mícheál Ó Muirín, Cian Mac Giobúin, Tomás Mac Aodhagáin. Chun tosaigh: Oisín Ó Faoláin, Jeaic Ó hÓdhráin, Seán Seoighe, Seán Ó Tiarnáin, Proinnsias Ó Cairr, Brian Ó hÉanacháin, Pádraig Ó Luideáin, Roibéard Ó Seibhleáin, Máirtín Ó Cairr.





U-12 County Mini-League Finalists, MacHale Park, Castlebar, July 14, 2014. Back: Michael Horan, Aoife Lally, Jessica Higgins, Laura Gibbons, Eoin Egan, Seán Heneghan, Máirtín Carr, Jamie Walsh, Lee Jennings, Ben Horan, Conall Mac Gabhann, Tom Whelan. Front: Mark Harrington, Daithí Conlon, Finn Conoboy, Oisín Barry, Johnny Granahan, Maitiú Mac Giobúin (capt.), Éamon Ó hÉanacháin, Seán O'Brien, Brandon Francis-Henry, Seán Durkin, Aaron Jennings.



Foireann Faoi-17 Thuar Mhic Éadaigh a ghlac páirt i gComórtas Cuimhneacháin Michael Summerville san Fhairche ar Lúnasa 17, 2014 (7-a'-taobh).

Ar chúl:  
Proinnsíós Ó Cairr,  
Sam Mac Giollarnáth,  
Darrach Mac Conaill,  
Cathal Ó Cróinín.  
Chun tosaigh:  
Pádraig Ó Luideáin,  
Brian Ó hÉanacháin,  
Tomás Mac Aodhagáin,  
Mícheál Ó Conbuí.





Foireann Faoi-14 Thuar Mhic Éadaigh 2015, Cluiche Ceannais Craobh an Chontae (Roinn 5), Páirc Mhic Éil, Iúil 16, 2015. Ar chúil: Mícheál Seán Breathnach (Bainisteoir), Liam Ó hUiginn, Ben Ó hÓráin, Seán Ó hÉanacháin, Darragh de Phriondargáist, Eoin Mac Aodhagáin, Lee Mac Sheoinín, Máirtín Ó Cairr, Marc Ó hÚrdáil, Seán Ó Briain, Seán Ó hÓráin (Bainisteoir). Chun tosaigh: Seán Mac Dharcáin, Fionn Ó Conbhuí, Oisín de Barra, Seán Ó Maolmhuaidh, Seán Ó Tiarnáin (captaen), Séamaí Breathnach, Louis Ó hAonghusa, Maitiú Mac Giobúin. As láthair: Éamonn Ó hÉanacháin.

Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-16 team, winners of Small Rural Clubs Blitz at Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence, Began, July 4, 2015. Back: John Horan, Cian Gibbons, Larry Conlon, Adam Mulroe, Jack Horan, Patrick Lydon, Colm Ó Conghaile. Front: Conor Gibbons, Eoin Conaboy, Seán Tiernan, Seán Seoighe, Máirtín Carr, Oisín Whelan.







U-12 boys / mixed team 2015. Back: Seán Durkin, Tomás Prendergast, Ciara Heneghan, Ruth Horan, Leah Lydon, Jessica Higgins, Áine Ní Éanacháin, Mickey O'Malley, Aaron Jennings, John Lydon. Front: Jack de Búrca, Johnny Granahan, Fianach Mac Gabhann, Tomás Ó hÉanacháin, Pádraig O'Neill, Seán Seoighe, Conall Mac Gabhann, Máire Ní Éanacháin, Daithí Conlon. Missing: Seán Joyce, Liam de Búrca, Culann Kelly.



U-12 girls team 2015. Back: Amy Staunton, Ciara Gibbons, Jessica Higgins, Maeve Whelan, Máire Ní Éanacháin, Rebecca Ronan, Ciara Heneghan, Leah Lydon, Áine Ní Éanacháin. Front: Katie O'Brien, Rebecca Staunton, Emma Kearns, Áine Gibbons, Joan Lydon, Caoimhe Barry, Katie O'Reilly. Missing: Ruth Horan, Eabha Egan, Ciara Molloy.





Foireann Faoi-16 2015. Ar chúl: Seosamh Ó hÉanacháin (Bainisteoir), Jeaic Ó hÓráin, Stiofán Stundún, Adam Ó Maolruaidh, Labhras Ó Conalláin, Diolúin Ó Maolruaidh, Colm Ó Conghaile (Bainisteoir). Chun tosaigh: Eoin Ó Conbhuí, Conchubhair Mac Giobúin, Oisín Ó Faoláin, Seán Seoighe, Pádraig Ó Luideáin, Darach de Phriondargáist, Seán Ó Tiarnáin, Máirtín Ó Cairr.

Foireann Mionúir 2015. Ar chúl: Tomás Ó Neachtain (Bainisteoir), Caoimhín Ó Broin, Cathal Stundún, Mícheál Ó Muirín, Labhras Ó Conalláin, Darragh Mac Conaill, Ciarán Stundún, Pádraig Ó Luideáin, Maitiú Ó Máille. Chun tosaigh: Brian Ó hÉanacháin, Oisín Ó Faoláin, Cathal Ó Cróinín, Sam Mac Giollarnath, Mícheál Ó Conbhuí, Roibéard Ó Seibhleáin, Tomás Mac Aodhagáin.





## PRIMARY SCHOOLS

From as early as the 1930s, there are accounts of football being played in local national schools. Tommy Rabbette, the principal of SN na Sraithe, used to take delivery of the *Irish Press* at Flynn's post office every day and relayed footballing news from around the country to his pupils. The late Tomás Ó hÉanacháin remembered that "we got a football and had great fun playing in the yard and the Master taught us the rules of football. We had a match against Partry in McAndrew's field in Carramore but were badly beaten. At least one of the Partry lads had football boots. We had never seen football boots at the time. This particular boy from Partry was a good player but we thought that it was the magic in his boots that won the day".

In Partry NS, where former Mayo footballer Joe Horan was the principal, Michael Horan of Ballygarry remembers that they were allowed to play football in the Priest's Field at lunchtime but that "without agreed rules or a referee, mayhem often prevailed".

In fond recollection of his days at Partry NS in the 1940s, Frank Horan composed the following nostalgic verse:

*I hear the "Ruaile Buaile", an old familiar tone,*

*I see the sectioned windows, the surrounding wall of stone,*

*The playground full of action, vitality and strife,*

*A football match in progress, all playing for their life.*

*The ball was made of paper tied together with a string.*

*The rules were non existant, just one ferocious fling.*

*We fought until the whistle, we ran and chased like cattle.*

*We never knew surrender, like warriors in battle.*

*Then the Master blew the whistle, playtime at an end,*

*Back into the lessons boys, and let your bruises mend !!*



The Sam Maguire Cup at Treanlaur National School in 1952. Standing: Tomás Molloy, Martin Gibbons (Treanlaur), Joe Mulrooney N.T., \_\_\_, Michael Durkin. Kneeling: unidentified.

From the early 1970s, national schools games between Treanlaur, Srah, Partry and Killitane were a feature of the annual Féile Thuar Mhic Éadaigh. Mícheál Molloy remembers playing his first ever football match in an area at the back of Heaney's field which was set aside for childrens games.

SN Trian Láir first entered Cumann na mBunscol competitions in 1991. In 1993, SN na Sraithe girls won their county final against Geesala. SN Trian Láir reached the 1996 county final but were beaten by Gortskehy NS by two points in a high-scoring encounter. The following year, SN Trian Láir boys and girls teams won their respective area finals. 1998 was a notable year for

SN Coill an tSidheáin when they succeeded in winning the county 5-a-side championship for the first time. SN Thuar Mhic Éadaigh boys contested the 2013 county final against Breaffy NS (Ballina). The girls team played in the 2014 final where they lost to Kilmovee but fittingly, in the 50th anniversary year of CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh

(2015), the girls made it second time lucky when they captured the school's first ever county title in an exciting final against Carn NS. As part of the club's 50th anniversary celebrations, a "Battle of the Schools" football tournament was staged in Páirc Naomh Muire on August 2nd, 2015 where past pupils of local schools renewed the friendly rivalries of their childhood days.



Pupils at Partry N.S. celebrating CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh successes in 2010



► "Field of Dreams".

Danny Walsh and Martin Prendergast pictured at S.N. Coill a' tSidheáin in 2010 with the County U-14 and U-16 cups they won as Tuar Mhic Éadaigh captains. Four years later, they played alongside each other in the Intermediate Championship.

▼ Tourmakeady combined National Schools team 1990. Back: Stephen Joyce, Pat Staunton, Tomás Naughton, Danny Cox, Tomás Folan, Brendan Prendergast, John Farragher, Tomás McHale. Front: Adrian Lally, Mark Conway, Damien Heneghan, Tomás Ronan, Kevin Feerick, Shane Lally, Michael James Meenaghan.





S.N. Trián Láir, Cumann na mBunscol South Mayo Champions 1992. Back: Siobhán Ní Éanacháin (múinteoir), Máirtín Mac Giobúin, Seán Seoighe, Ruairí Ó Conaire, Damien Ó hÉanacháin, Tomás Ó Cualáin, Pádraig Stundúin, Mícheál Ó Néill, Triona Ní Chonghaile. Front: Caitlín Ní Éanacháin, Stiofán Ó Néill, Antaine Ó Néill, Tomás Ó Neachtain, Dónal Ó Coiligh, Brian Ó Neachtain, Daithí Ó Tuathail, Carl Ó Conaire.

## Ballinrobe Regional Final, Cumann na mBunscol 1992

### FIRST TITLE FOR TRIANLAIR SCHOOL

S.N. Trián Láir 4-8 The Neale N.S. 3-7

Triánláir N.S., Tourmakeady, captured the McHale Cup in the Ballinrobe regional final of Div. 3 of the championships. In a highly exciting final played in excellent conditions before a large and eager crowd, it was The Neale who opened the scoring with a first minute goal. Damian Heneghan had Tourmakeady's first goal from a

cross from Kay Heneghan. Damien pointed again in the 8th minute. By the 9th minute The Neale had netted a super goal. Two minutes later Damien was again on target for goal number two for the Triánláir team. A minute later Pat Staunton scored the third goal from a Naughton's pass. In the 18th minute The Neale were again in the goal



mood to level the scores. Damien Heneghan pointed again for Trianláir but the boys of The Neale had two further points and were leading 3-3 to 3-2 at half time.

On the resumption Pat Staunton had the sides level in the first minute. Mícheál O'Neill scored Trianlair's fourth goal in the fourth minute and points from Danny Cox and Damien Heneghan

insured the title but a late Neale comeback had the lemonade on cork until the end. Final score Trianláir 4-8 The Neale 3-7.

Trianlair: Tomás Folan, Kay Heneghan, Brian Naughton, Rory Conroy, Danny Cox, Tomás Naughton, Mícheál O'Neill, Damian Heneghan, Pat Staunton, Martin Gibbons.



S.N. Trian Láir football team 1991 pictured before the Regional Final in Kilmaine GAA grounds. Back: Pat Staunton, Aisling Clarke, Kathleen O'Neill, Tom Ronan, Seán Lally, Mícheál O'Neill. Front: Tom Naughton, Stiofán O'Neill, Danny Cox, Damien Heneghan, Tomás Folan, Ruairí Conroy, Brian Naughton.

Scoil Náisiúnta na Sraithe, Seaimpíní Craobh "B"  
Cumann na mBunscol Mhaigh Eo 1993. Ar chúl: Éamonn Ó Seoinín (Príomhoide), Mila Nan Dulmen, Jude Ní Mhaoineacháin, Noirín Nic Eochaidh, Aoife Ní Mháille, Máire Ní Fhearrachair, Carolín Ní Chonnmhaí. Chun tosaigh: Áine Ní Fhearrachair, Martha Ní Mháille, Lorraine Ní Néill, Aislinn Ní Dhonnchadha, Cristín Ní Fhearrachair. Ás láthair: Rita Ní Éanacháin.



## Cumann na mBunscol - Craobh Peile "B" na gCailíní (7-an-taobh) 1993

### AN t-SRAITH ABÚ

S.N. na Sraithe 6-14 S.N Gaoth Sáile 2-7

Is fada a bheas cuimhne ag páistí agus tuismitheóirí na Sraithe ar 1993 nuair a bhuaigh foireann cailíní, Scoil na Sraithe, comórtas peile na mbunscoileanna. Tá moladh agus comhghairdeachas tuillte ag na cailíní seo mar

gheall ar a nduthracht agus a seil. Ag dul i bhfeabhas a bhí siad le gach cluiche a d'imir siad. Bhí gach cailín, gan eisceacht, ar fheabhas ina h-ionad féin nuair a shroich siad an cluiche ceannais in aghaidh scoil Ghaoth Sáile.



Ní raibh aon stopadh orthu ar an lá sin. Bhí óg agus aosta i lathair le tacaíocht a thabhairt dóibh ar an lá. Thosaigh na scóranna ag teacht agus ní raibh cúis inní againn ó thús go deireadh. D'imigh an ghaoth as Gaoth Sáile. Nach muid a bhí bródúil nuair a séideadh an fheadóg agus ghlac Lorraine Ní Néill an corn ar son na foirne. Ní dhéanfar dearmad go ceann i bhfad ar an gcomóradh a lean ina dhiaidh sin. Tá moladh thar barr tuillte ag tuismitheoirí na bpáistí seo a thiomáin chuig

cliuchí iad, is cuma céard eile a bhí le déanamh acu. Mo bhuíochas pearsanta do na daoine seo.

Is mór an trua nach bhfuil Nóirín Mac Eoidh, Aislinn Ní Dhonnchadha, Máire Ní Fhearrachair, Lorraine Ní Néill, Aoife Ní Mháille, Martha Ní Mháille agus Jude Ní Mhaoineacháin le chéile aríst i mbliana. An mbeidh a leithidí ann aríst?

- Éamonn Ó Coinín

*Foilsithe san iris "Waterfall 1993"*



S.N. Coill a' tSidheáin, Buaiteoirí Craobh Chontae Mhaigh Eo 5-an-taobh 1998.  
Ar chúil: Máire de Bhaldráithe, Aoibhinn de Phriondargáis, Seán de Búrca, Pól Ó Luideáin, Uinseann Ó Meára, Tomás Ó hÉanacháin.  
Chun tosaigh: Lisa Ní Sheibhleáin, Mícheál Ó Seibhleáin, Maitiú de Búrca, Ciarán Mac Giobúin, Nollaig Ó Coileáin.

Foireann Cailíní S.N.  
Coill a' tSidheáin 2004.  
Ar chúl:  
Máirtínín Ní Sheoinín,  
Amy Breathnach,  
Caitlín Nic Aindriú.  
Chun tosaigh:  
Orla Ní Mheára,  
Máire de Phriondargáis,  
Natalie Ní Sheoinín,  
Jodie Ní Sheimhleáin.



Foireann Buachaillí S.N.  
Coill a' tSidheáin 2004.  
Ar chúl:  
Mícheál Ó Cadhain,  
Pádraig Ó Filibín,  
Séamus de Grannt,  
Niall de Phriondargáist,  
Liam Ó Cadhain.  
Chun tosaigh:  
Máirtín de Phriondargáis,  
Daithí Mac Phiaric,  
Damien Ó Luideáin.





(1) S.N. Thuar Mhic Éadaigh 2013.  
Ar chúl: Seán Seoighe, Oisín Ó Faoláin,  
Labhras Ó Connaláin, Seán Ó  
Maolmhuaidh. Chun tosaigh: Seán Ó  
Briain, Séamais Breathnach, Liam Ó  
hUiginn, Seán Ó Tiarnáin, Máirtín Ó Cairr.  
© Photo: Frank Dolan.

(2) S.N. Coill a' tSidheáin 1996/'97.  
Ar chúl: Daithí de Phriondargáist, Liam Ó  
Maolruaidh, Brian Mac Giobúin, Maitiú de  
Búrca. Lár: Siorcha Ní Luideáin, Uinseann  
Ó Meára, Lisa Ní Sheimhlín, Aoibhinn de  
Phriondargáis. Chun tosaigh: Eibhlín Ní  
Mheára, Meadhbh de Rís.

(3) Máirtín Carr (left) and Seán Tiernan  
(right) were on the Mayo Cumann na  
mBunscol team that played against a  
Roscommon selection before the  
Connacht SFC semi-final at Castlebar,  
June 16, 2013.







S.N. Trián Láir, Cumann na mBunscol County Final 1996. Back: Ciara Ní Thuathail, Caitlín Ní Sioradáin, Cathal de Paor, Mícheál Ó hÉanacháin, Pádraig Ó Cualáin, Bríd Ní Mhaolalla. Front: Stiofán Mac Giobúin, Caoimhín Ó Dóláin, Adrian Ó Dóláin, Fearghal de Paor, Marcus Ó hÉanacháin, Brian Ó hÉanacháin.

Foireann na gCailíní, Scoil Náisiúnta Thuar Mhic Éadaigh 2015. Seaimpíní Roinn 4, Cumann na mBunscol Mhaigh Eo. Ar chúl: Nina Uí Luideáin (Múinteoir), Seán Seoighe (Priomhoide), Ciara Ní Mhaolmhuaidh, Maedhbh Ní Fhaoláin, Rebecca Ní Rónáin, Ciara Ní Éanacháin, Jessica Ní Uiginn, Ciara Ní Thuathail (Múinteoir). Chun tosaigh: Leah Ní Luideáin, Emma Ní Chiaráin, Laura Nic Giobúin, Aoife Ní Mhaolalla (captaen), Amy Stundún, Fiona Ní Mhaolmhuaidh.







Captaen na foirne, Aoife Ní Mhaolalla, agus a máthair Peigí le Corn an Chontae tar éis Cluiche Ceannais Peile Cumann na mBunscol a bhuachaint i Cnoc Mór ar Meitheamh 3, 2015.

## **Cumann na mBunscol – Girls Division 4 2015**

# **FIRST EVER TITLE FOR TOURMAKEADY NS**

SN Thuar Mhic Éadaigh 4-5    Carn NS 2-8

Ecstatic scenes of joy greeted Tourmakeady's first ever title. The fact that it was won in a thriller against a gallant Carn NS makes it all the sweeter. The game was only decided after ten extra minutes was played.

Scores were few and far between in the first half. Tourmak' led at half time by 1-1 to 0-2. Ava McDonnell landed both Carn points. Laura Nic Giobúin scored the winners' opening point, with Fiona Ní Mhaolmhuaidh adding their goal just before half time, which saw the West Mayo school

leading at the break by 1-1 to 0-2.

Fiona Ní Mhaolmhuaidh struck with another goal for Tourmakeady just after half time. But just as quickly, Carn's Ava McDonnell replied with a point, followed by a goal. A feature of the game at this stage, and all through, was the terrific blocking from defenders on both sides.

A goal from Jessica Ní Uiginn saw the victors lead by 3-1 to 1-3. The same player kicked two points, with Ava McDonnell and Emily Murray

scoring a point apiece for Carn.

Carn brought up their goalkeeper Éabha Gallagher to take a long-range free which she scored a goal to bring the game to extra time.

Amy Ní Stundún and Laura Nic Giobúin scored two points for the winners in the first half of extra time, with Carn failing to score. Emily Murray and Aisling Gaughan added points for the beaten side in the final stanza, but Tourmak' had the final say when Fiona Ní Mhaolmhuaidh scored a goal to see them home.

TOURMAKEADY: Rebecca Ní Rónáin, Laura Nic Giobúin, Aoife Ní Mhaolalla (captaen), Jessica Ní Uiginn (1-2), Leah Ní Luideáin, Fiona Ní Mhaolmhuaidh (3-0), Amy Ní Stundún, Maedhbh

Ní Fhaoláin, Ciara Ní Éanacháin, Ciara Ní Mhaolmhuaidh, Emma Ní Chiaráin.

CARN: Éabha Gallagher (1-0), Aisling Gaughan (0-1), Saoirse Gallagher, Emily Murray (0-2), Ava McDonnell (1-5), Aoife Kelly, Lucy Monaghan, Teresa Kelly, Rachel Kelly, Niamh Egan, Sinéad Carolan.

Referee: Martin Costello (Ballintubber)

*From an article by Austin Garvin in the Mayo News*

***Editor's note: Before the game, Fiona Ní Mhaolmhuaidh swapped jerseys with Leah Ní Luideáin because she wanted to wear her lucky No. 7. It certainly was lucky because she scored three goals ! Leah got the credit in the newspaper so the record is set straight here.***



Bonfire blazing at Páirc Naomh Muire to welcome home the National Schools Girls County Champions, June 3, 2015



## COLLEGES FOOTBALL

Coláiste Muire, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh was opened in 1931 as a girls boarding school. It was not until 1987 that boys were admitted. Until then, the majority of boys from the parish who obtained secondary level education did so in Ballinrobe CBS or Ballinrobe Vocational School. A number of others went to boarding schools such as St. Enda's, St. Jarlath's, or St. Mary's.

Over the years, several players from the area have enjoyed success in colleges football. In the 1950s, Con Horan (Partry) and Martin O'Malley (Srah) won Flanagan Cup medals with Ballinrobe CBS. Gearóid Mulrooney, Billy Hennelly, and Christy Dermody won a Mayo Juvenile Colleges title in 1969, also with Ballinrobe CBS. Owen Heneghan was one of four Tourmakeady players that won a Connacht U-15 title with Ballinrobe Vocational School in 1971.

In 1982, Seán Lydon, Joe Dolan, Michael Horan and Michael O'Malley were on the Mayo panel that won the All-Ireland Vocational Schools Championship. Also in that year, Mícheál Molloy played a starring role in attack for the St. Jarlath's team that won the All-Ireland Senior Colleges Championship. In so doing, he became the third person from the parish to have won the Hogan Cup with the famous Tuam nursery, following Mick O'Malley (1947) and Eugene Mulrooney (1978).

Coláiste Muire boys first entered competitions in the early 1990s. In 1996, they contested the Senior "D" Connacht

football final but lost narrowly to Mohill. Two years later, they bounced back to win this competition with a victory over Ballygar on April 26th 1998. The Junior "D" boys won a Connacht title in 1997 and again in 1998.

The period from 1997 to 2001 was a golden era for Coláiste Muire Senior "A" girls, during which they battled against rivals Banada Abbey for supremacy in Connacht. Coláiste Muire were Connacht champions in 1997 and 2001 but suffered disappointment in both years in the All-Ireland final, losing out to Spanish Point (Clare) and Coláiste na Sceilge (Kerry) respectively. Ádh mór ar foirne Choláiste Muire sa todhchaí.



Tourmakeady's Mícheál Molloy (No. 11) shoots a brilliant and decisive goal for St. Jarlath's in their 2-7 to 1-8 win over St. Mel's in the Senior Colleges All-Ireland semi-final in Athlone on April 25, 1982

Coláiste Muire Boys,  
Connacht Junior "D"  
Football Champions 1998.  
Ar chúl: Adrian Ó Doláin,  
Donal Ó Luideáin, Ruairí  
Mac Giobúin, Mícheál S. Ó  
Maoinéacháin, Niall Ó  
Maolruaidh, Stiofán Ó Néill,  
Liam de Phriondargáist. Lár:  
Eoghan Mac Eochaidh,  
Tomás Mac Giobúin, Mícheál  
Ó hÉanacháin, Niall Ó  
Luideáin, Mícheál Seoighe  
(RIP), Antaine Ó Luideáin,  
Daithí Ó Tuathail, Séamus  
Seoighe. Chun tosaigh: Seán  
Ó Dufaigh, Mícheál Ó  
Rónán, Carl Ó Conaire, Brian  
Ó Neachtain, Seán Seoighe,  
Antaine Ó Néill, Eoin  
Seoighe, Micí Ó Luideáin.  
© Photo: Frank Dolan.



The Coláiste Muire Boys team that won the Connacht Senior "D" Football Championship for the first time in 1998. Ar chúl: Damien Ó hÉanacháin, Ruairí Mac Giobúin, Mícheál S. Ó Maoinéacháin, Seán Seoighe, Stiofán Ó Néill, Donal Ó Luideáin. Lár: Mícheál Ó Rónán, Tomás Ó Ceallaigh, Niall Ó Luideáin, Liam de Phriondargáist, Niall Ó Maolruaidh, Adrian Ó Maolalla, Antaine Ó Luideáin, Donal Ó Coiligh, Mícheál Seoighe (RIP). Chun tosaigh: Carl Ó Conaire, Eoghan Mac Eochaidh, Brian Ó Neachtain, Ruairí Ó Conaire, Tomás Ó Neachtain, Antaine Ó Néill, Adrian Ó Doláin, Breandán de Phriondargáist, Micí Ó Luideáin. © Photo: Frank Dolan.





Coláiste Muire Junior Girls 1998. Ar chúl: Michelle Seambrach, Aíne-Máire Ní Rónáin, Lorna Seoighe, Niamh Ní Mhaolalla, Aoibhinn de Búrca, Davina de Búrca, Stiofánaí Ní Chocráin, Cáitlín Ní Shioradáin. Chun tosaigh: Aingeal Ní Cháirr, Meabh Ní Churraoin, Rachel Nic An Bháird, Nuala Ní Shé, Shellie Nic Giobúin, Ciara Ní Thuathail, Bríd Ní Mhaolalla.

© Photo: Frank Dolan.



Coláiste Muire Senior Girls 1998, Connacht Finalists. Back: Martha Ní Mháille, Niamh Ní Mhaolalla, Triona Ní Chonghaile, Máire Ivanna Ní Éanacháin, Niamh Ní Éanacháin, Aoife Ní Mháille, Lorraine Ní Néill, Linda de Bairéid. Front: Lorna Seoighe, Cristín Ní Éanacháin, Aislinn Ní Dhonnchadha, Caitlín Áine Ní Éanacháin, Nuala Ní Shé, Shellie Nic Giobúin, Laura Ní Dhufaigh. © Photo: Frank Dolan.



Foireann Cailíní Choláiste Muire, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh a bhuaigh Comórtas Peile Gael-Linn sa bhliain 2002. Ar chúl: Nóirín Ní Fharrachair, Sandra Stundún, Michelle Ní Éanacháin, Cáit Ní Luideáin, Leigh Ní Longáin, Lorraine Ní Mháille, Danika de Búrca, Caitriona Nic Fhinn, Trudy Ní Dhomhnaill, Fiona Ní Mhaolalla, Sorchá Ní Fhilibín, Áine Ní Mhaolmhuidh. Lár: Áine Ní Dhonnchadha, Eibhlín Ní Sheambraigh, Karen Ní Cheallaigh, Áine Stundún, Cáit Ní Mhaolalla, Áine Máire Ní Luideáin; Aimí Ní Mhaolalla. Chun tosaigh: Niamh Ní Éanacháin, Louise Nic Giobúin, Caitriona Nic Aodhagáin, Caitriona de Búrca.



Kerry legend Colm Cooper took Coláiste Muire Junior Boys team for a training session on March 26, 2015 at Páirc Naomh Muire. Back: Seán Seoighe, Labhras Ó Conalláin, Adam Ó Maolruaidh, Cian Mac Giobúin, Diolúin Ó Maolruaidh, Conor Ó hAirmhí, Rónán Mac Fhinn, Siúrdán Breathnach, Séamus Ó hÉanacháin, Liam De Búrca, Aaron Mac Domhnaill, Jeaicí Ó Conbhuí. Front: Eoin Mac Aodhagáin, Seán Ó Maolmhuidh, Oisín Ó Faoláin, Seán Ó Tiarnáin, Annette Ní Chatháin (muinteoir), Colm Cuipéir (peileadóir Chiarraí), Eoin Ó Conbhuí, Niall Ó Maolalla, Stiofán Stundún, Pádraig Ó Luideáin, Liam Ó hUiginn.



## DEVELOPMENT OF CLUB FACILITIES

***“Though we are going forward, let us not forget the past and the men who first formed the club. They too played their part as have our exiles ... We hope we can make Páirc Naomh Muire a living link between those who sowed the seed in difficult times and those who have the good fortune to reap the harvest in easier times”.***

*– Fr. Noel Forde, Cathaoirleach CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, July 22, 1984*

At the very first meeting of Tourmakeady GAA club in September 1965, the newly installed chairman Owen Denny stressed from the outset that “everything would be carried out properly in Martin Heaney’s field”. In his report to the 1967 AGM, the club secretary extended “a special word of praise to our grounds committee ... we had the best lined pitch in the West division”. Needs were simple and facilities basic during those early years. As humorously described in *Waterfall* ‘97, it was a case of “over to Heaney’s Field, no showers, no clubhouse, no car, Treanlaur stream, under the whin bush, one towel between two or three players”.

In the 1970s, the prospect of developing a pitch and clubhouse at the Bunaun was discussed but this was scuppered because of land ownership issues. At a club meeting in December 1977, it was noted that “some better form of washing and dressing facilities have to be got” and Seán Ó Conghaile, Seán Ó Sé and Kevin O’Toole were tasked to investigate the cost of such improvements, as well as the question of levelling Heaney’s field. A basic modicum of comfort came in 1979 when the club decided to purchase two huts for use as dressing rooms. In the early 1980s,

lands adjoining Coláiste Muire were purchased from the Sisters of Mercy for £12,000. Trustees were appointed and a field development committee chaired by Willie Feeley was put in place. In 1983, a major fundraising drive to raise £35,000 was launched. A confined prize draw with 300 members contributing £5 per month brought in substantial funds, as also did a “Mayor of Tourmakeady” campaign. Roinn na Gaeltachta sanctioned a grant of £9,000 which was later increased to £20,000. Tourmakeady-resident John Mulqueen of An Foras Talúntais drew up the plans for drainage and pitch works and Pádraig O’Mara of Ballinrobe was appointed as the contractor. Noel Heneghan was then asked to draw up plans for the clubhouse and work commenced on this phase early in 1984. The newly developed grounds and clubhouse at Páirc Naomh Muire were officially opened on Sunday, July 22, 1984. It was one of the hottest days of a glorious summer. Legions of supporters reclined on the grassy terrace above the field to watch the realisation of a dream as Tourmakeady played Ballintubber, Mayo challenged Kerry, and the Tourmakeady Ladies took on their rivals Cong as part of the day’s programme of activities.



Above: The club house at Páirc Naomh Muire was built in 1984 (photograph taken in 2012).  
Below: Brochure for "Club 300" confined members fundraising draw 1983/'84.

TOURMAKEADY G.A.A. CLUB

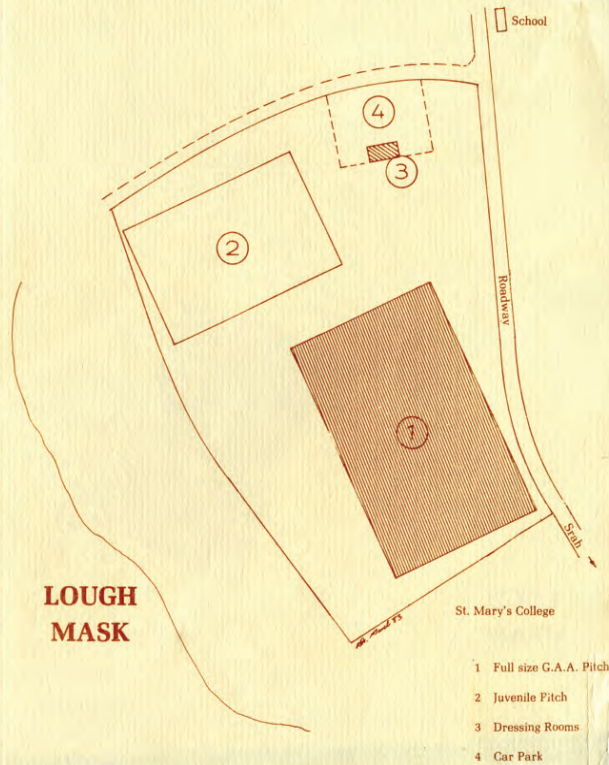
**A MONSTER MONTHLY LOTTERY**

CONFINED TO 300 MEMBERS IS BEING ORGANISED,  
COMMENCING APRIL NEXT WITH THE FOLLOWING PRIZES

<b>APRIL:</b>	Automatic Washing Machine, plus 3 prizes of £60.00
<b>MAY:</b>	3.5 H.P. Lawn Mower, plus 3 prizes of £60.00
<b>JUNE:</b>	Lady's and Gent's Racing Bikes, plus 3 prizes of £60.00
<b>JULY:</b>	Portable Colour Television, plus 3 prizes of £60.00
<b>AUGUST:</b>	Fridge Freezer, plus 3 prizes of £60.00
<b>SEPTEMBER:</b>	Stihl Chain-Saw, plus 3 prizes of £60.00
<b>OCTOBER:</b>	£200 Fuel Voucher, plus 3 prizes of £60.00
<b>NOVEMBER:</b>	Video Recorder, plus 3 prizes of £60.00
<b>DECEMBER:</b>	£200 Shopping Spree and Christmas Hamper, plus 3 prizes of £60.00
<b>JANUARY:</b>	Microwave Oven, plus 3 prizes of £60.00
<b>FEBRUARY:</b>	Music Centre, plus 3 prizes of £60.00
<b>MARCH:</b>	22" Colour Television, plus 3 prizes of £60.00



**G.A.A. DEVELOPMENT TOURMAKEADY**





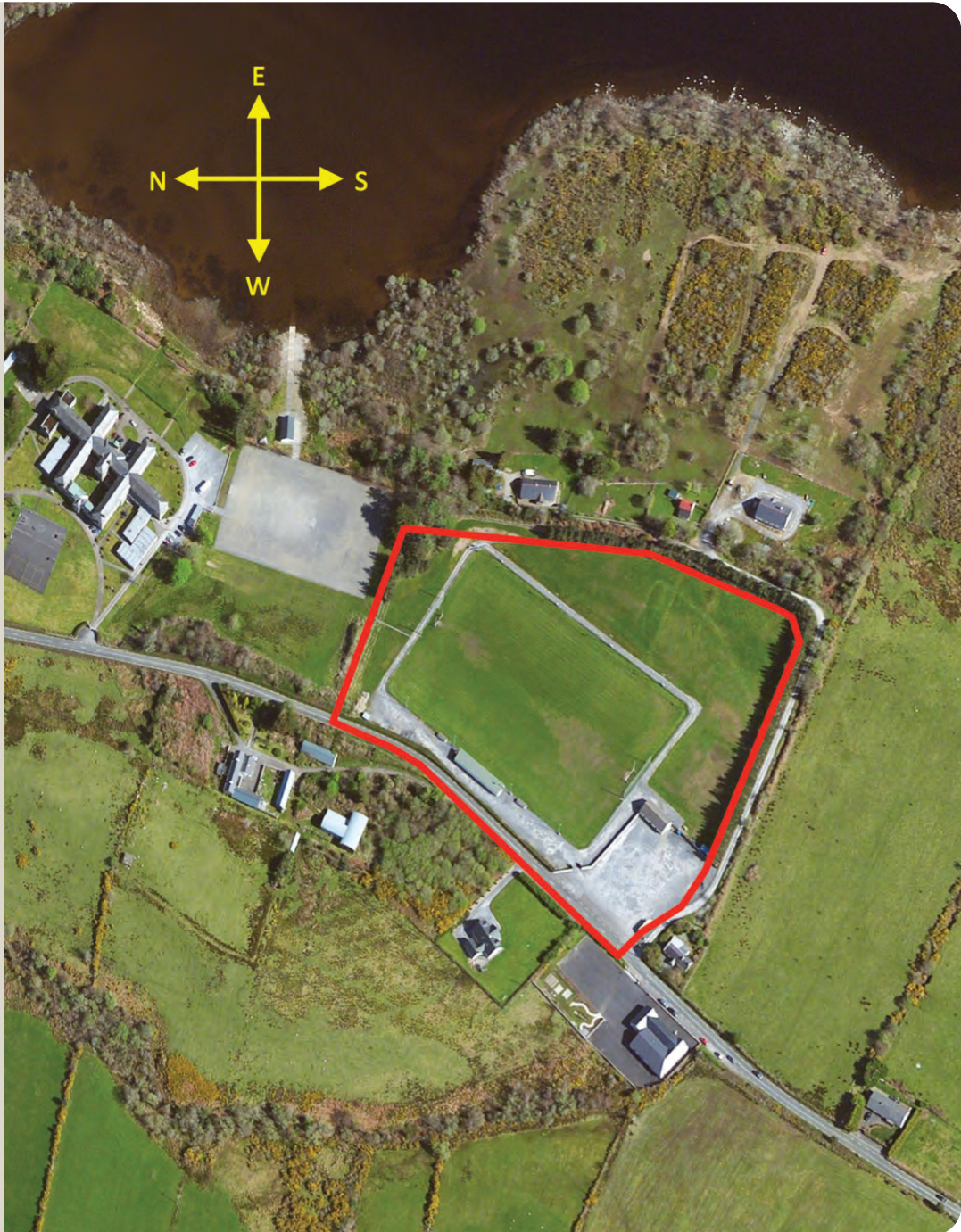


These two photographs of Páirc Naomh Muire were taken from a similar vantage point 26 years apart. Above: The pitch and clubhouse as they were in May 1986. Below: The pitch and surroundings in December 2012. Changes include a spectator stand, dug-outs, boundary fencing, ball stop nets, scoreboard (out of view), and floodlights. The clubhouse at the opposite end of the grounds, constructed in 1984, underwent no changes during this period other than some internal fixtures and fittings.





Aerial photograph of Páirc Naomh Muire taken in 2012. "Heaney's Field" is directly to the south (at right of picture). Adjacent to the north are the grounds of Coláiste Muire. Scoil Náisiúnta Thuar Mhic Éadaigh is situated to the south-west (bottom), and the shores of Lough Mask are to the east.







Pictured at the opening of Tourmakeady GAA club's new clubhouse and pitch on July 22, 1984 were: Michael John Casey (PRO), Tom Connaughton (Connacht GAA Chairperson), Kevin O'Toole (grounds committee), Pat Naughton (supervisor of development), Fr. Noel Forde (Tourmakeady GAA Chairperson), Paddy Muldoon (Mayo GAA Chairperson), Ger Whyte (Kerry GAA Secretary), Seán Feeney (West Mayo GAA Secretary), Tommy Heneghan and Vincent Hennelly (committee members).



Fr. Joseph Kearney blessing the newly opened Tourmakeady GAA club pitch, Páirc Naomh Muire, July 22, 1984.



John O'Shea leads the Mayo and Kerry teams, captained by Tommy Heneghan and Ambrose O'Donovan, in the pre-match parade at the opening of Páirc Naomh Muire, July 22, 1984.



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People have various memories of the opening of Páirc Naomh Muire. Sheila O'Toole can still picture the unusual sight of the Kerry football team playing rugby in her front garden. For one young boy, it was a day never to be forgotten. John O'Shea, whose Kerry-born father Seán was one of the founder members of the club, had the honour of leading the Kerry team in the pre-match parade. Dressed in his green and gold Ireland kit, he marched around the field followed by Ambrose O'Donovan, Tom Spillane, Tim Kennelly, and a host of Kerry legends including his personal hero John Egan. John's first cousin Tommy Heneghan led the Mayo team. "School was great craic the following morning," laughs John. "A life time of slagging followed but I'll always remember that special day. The Kerry captain Ambrose O'Donovan was presented with a plaque after the game, he gave it to me and I still have it."



The Kerry football team demonstrating their rugby skills in O'Toole's garden on July 22, 1984. Legendary Kerry team attendant Leo Griffin gets ready to put the ball into the scrum.





Brian Gibbons on the presentation platform after playing for Mayo against Kerry at the opening of Páirc Naomh Muire, July 22, 1984. Brian made a guest appearance in the county colours on that day but didn't know about it until a few minutes beforehand. "I was up against Tom Spillane", he remembers, "It was a very hot day and I had already played with Tourmakeady against Ballintubber in the curtain raiser. Sure I spent most of the game chasing after Spillane, every time the ball came he was gone like a bullet! Tommy Heneghan was full forward and the first ball he got, he put it up and over the bar. But we didn't get much loose change out of the Kerry lads after that."

In the foreground is the "de Valera Staircase" which was made by Myles Joyce and Tomás Ó Máille for the visit of President Éamon de Valera to Féile Dramaíochta Chonnacht in Tourmakeady Hall in April 1960.

### ***Ardán na nDeoraí and other developments (2001)***

Plans for the next phase of improvements at Páirc Naomh Muire were announced in 1996. The club's aspirations were to develop a covered stand for the comfort of spectators, fence off the pitch area, and extend the clubhouse. An appeal to exiles met with a wonderful response. A major fundraiser attended by several hundred people was staged in the Heritage Centre in Chicago on November 27th 1997. The principal organisers were Willie Barker, Kevin and Theresa Dermody, Frank and Bridget Carr, Noreen DeLance, Seán and Julie Lally, and Martin and Mary Durkin. The sum of \$20,000 was raised for the project through that event alone and subsequent donations were also received.

The works were mainly carried out by John Gibbons. In addition to a spectator stand, perimeter fencing was installed around the pitch, a driveway and car parking area was created, a scoreboard and ball stop nets were erected, and dugouts were made. On May 6th 2001, "Ardán na nDeoraí" (The Exiles Stand) was officially opened by former GAA President Joe McDonagh. To mark the occasion, the newly-crowned National Football League champions Mayo played Offaly in a challenge match. The total costs of the project ran to about £60,000. A government grant of £28,000 was subsequently received.



Páirc Naomh Muire in May 2001 with new spectator stand, boundary fencing and roadway, dug-outs, scoreboard, groundworks, entrance and parking area.







Mattie Heneghan on gate duty, opening day of new stand, May 2001.



Club stalwart and groundsman, Paddy Dolan, operating the scoreboard in Páirc Naomh Muire, October 2010.



At the opening of Ardán na nDeoraí on May 6, 2001 were (seated from right): Jim Callaghan, Martin Heaney, John Callan (Club President), Tomás Ó Máille, and Fr. Pádraig Stundún. Photo: Tommy Eibrand.



### ***Installation of floodlights (2012)***

The chairman of the club, Jim Durkin, ably supported by treasurer Mary Prendergast, undertook a project in 2011 to upgrade the floodlights at Páirc Naomh Muire. The existing lights provided a low level of illumination so they were replaced by eight substantially taller poles with high-powered beams. This necessitated the laying of underground cabling along the perimeter of the pitch and the installation of a new connection in the clubhouse. The total cost of the project ran to almost €20,000. Over half of this sum was raised through a very successful Camel Race Night and 25 Card Drive and the balance came from the club's reserves and other regular sources of income. The electrical work was done voluntarily by Pat Burke who also helped to source the materials. The floodlights were officially switched on on December 1, 2012. Tuar Mhic Éadaigh U-16s (West Mayo champions) played An Fháirche in a challenge match on the night.



Club chairman Jim Durkin drove the floodlights project in 2011/'12. He is pictured here on the launch night with his children Faith and Luke and the guest of honour, James Horan, manager of the Mayo Senior football team.

High-powered new floodlights were turned on in Páirc Naomh Muire on December 1, 2012. To mark the occasion, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh played An Fháirche in an U-16 challenge match.







Uachtarán Onórach CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, Séamus Ó Ceallacháin, ag caint le Donal Vaughan, imreoir Mhaigh Eo, ar oíche lainseála Cairde Thuar Mhic Éadaigh i dTigh Phaidí, Aibreán 25, 2014

### ***Launch of major fundraising drive for new facilities (2014)***

In 2014, CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh set up a dedicated Coiste Airgeadais (Finance Committee) to raise funds specifically for the purpose of refurbishing the existing clubhouse and constructing a community sports hall. The need for such a facility has long been recognised in the area.

A club patrons scheme called Cairde Thuar Mhic Éadaigh was launched in April 2014 and over 150 members committed to making an annual contribution of €250 towards the project. Through card drives, textiles recycling, bag packing, prize draws, and an immensely successful white collar boxing event in October, the club brought its own reserves up to €80,000. In honour of the late Phil Staunton, whose great wish it was to see a sports hall built in Tourmakeady, a perpetual cup named after him was presented on

the night of the white collar boxing. A very welcome boost was received in July 2014 with the announcement from Minister Michael Ring that a grant of €40,000 was allocated to the project under the Sports Capital Programme.

At the present time (July 2015), the total funds raised are approaching the half-way mark towards the overall estimate of €300,000 that will be required to refurbish the existing clubhouse and construct the first phase of the sports hall. Works are scheduled to commence in the autumn of 2015 and will be substantially complete in time for hosting the national finals of Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta in June 2017.

*(The proceeds of sale of this book will go towards this project.)*

Coiste Airgeadais 2014.  
 Back: Thomas Kelly,  
 Tom Naughton,  
 David Lally,  
 Michael Lang,  
 Thomas Staunton,  
 Damien Heneghan.  
 Front: Pattie Egan,  
 Nial Donoghue,  
 Úna Donoghue,  
 Brendan Prendergast,  
 Martha Ní Mháille.  
 Missing from photograph:  
 Joe Heneghan,  
 Ciara O'Toole,  
 Niall Lydon.  
 Photo: Trish Forde



White Collar Boxing 2014  
 - "The Black Team"  
 pictured at launch night  
 in The Village Inn, Partry,  
 September 19, 2014.  
 Back: Pat Folan, Mark  
 Gibbons, John Joyce,  
 Darren Kelly. Front: Tim  
 Foley, Denise Garry, Liam  
 Heneghan, Aisling Egan,  
 Danny Lydon. Missing  
 from photograph:  
 Michael McGeough,  
 Siobhán Heneghan, John  
 Power, Martin McDonald,  
 John Horan, Kathleen  
 Barry, James Grant, Eoin  
 Staunron, Eoin de Búrca,  
 Josie Mulroe.  
 Photo: Trish Forde.







White Collar Boxing 2014 - "The White Team" pictured at launch night in The Village Inn, Partry, September 19, 2014. Back: Máirtín Staunton, David Prendergast, David Lally, Thomas Staunton. Front: Kevin Dolan, Darren McNeely, Fr. John Kenny, Nial Donoghue, Martha Ní Mháille, Ann Marie Ronan. Missing from photograph: Ber Durkin, Conal Finnerty, Amanda Garry, Noel Gibbons, Michael Staunton, Leon Garry, Seán Philbin, Michael Lally. Photo: Trish Forde.



Left: Michael Staunton, Ann Staunton, and Tom Staunton with the Corn Cuimhneacháin Philib Stundún at White Collar Boxing fundraiser in the Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, October 17, 2014 .

Right: Phil Staunton at the Tourmakeady Agricultural Show in 2011.

## ***The Prayer of Blessing for the “Emigrant Stand”***

*by Fr. Pádraig Stundún*



The blessing of Ardán na nDeorái, May 6, 2001. From left: Kevin O'Toole, Fr. Pádraig Standún, Michael John Casey, An tAire Éamon Ó Cuív TD, John Gibbons, Brian Gibbons, former GAA President / Galway hurler Joseph McDonagh.

A number of people have asked me for the prayer of blessing for the “Emigrant Stand” in Tourmakeady football stadium, officially opened by ex-president of the GAA, Joe McDonagh on Sunday 6th May (2001). So I have decided to take the easy way out and include it in this week’s article. While not claiming that my effort is poetry, I did take poetic licence with regard to grammar in an effort to get something close to rhyme into these few verses. For those without very much Gaeilge, it is a blessing on the stand, and the pitch, but especially on the players and spectators,

remembering both the living and the dead, at home and abroad.

Great credit is due to Tourmakeady GAA club, its chairman and committee as well as to all who helped them on the big day. Much of the money was collected from emigrants from the area. Roinn na Gaeltachta and Údarás na Gaeltachta helped, as befits a Gaeltacht area, while the ongoing lotto and silver circle will continue to generate funds locally. The neat sponsorship placards around the ground speak of both local and neighbouring input. Well done to all concerned. Comhghairdeas ...



Go mbeannaí Dia an tArdán seo ona bhun go dtí a bharr,  
 Go mbeannaí sé gach tairne, gach cloch is gach clár,  
 Go mbeannaí sé an díon mór in airde os ár gcionn,  
 A choinneoidh uainn as na baistí is a thabharfas foscadh dúinn.

Go mbeannaí Dia na fir is mná a imríonn ar an bpáirc,  
 Go gcumhdaí sé ó thimpist iad, is go dté siad abhaile slán,  
 Go mbeannaí sé an t-aos óg a bhéas ag spraoi ann ar ball,  
 Is go mbeannaí sé an Coiste a d'eagraigh is a chuir ar fáil.

Ar nguí leis na ndaoine nach bhfuil linn níos mó  
 a d'oibrigh don chumann seo is a thug misneach is treoir,  
 Ár mbuíochas leis na hoibrithe, ón gconraitheoir is FÁS  
 is na hoibrithe deonacha a réitigh suas an áit.

Go mbeannaí Dia na Deoraithe a bhfuil sé ainmnithe ina ndiaidh,  
 Is go dtuga sé suaimhneas dóibh siúd atá ar shlí na fírinne,  
 Go mbainfear taitnimh as an áis seo go ceann i bhfad na mbliain,  
 is go bhfeicfear ann cluichí breátha is go leor seaimpín.

Le mí anuas ta gaisce déanta ag curaithe úra na tíre,  
 Ardú croí is meanmna ó Mhaigh Eo is Crois Mhaoilíona,  
 Ta peil na mban in ard a réim le bliain no dhó sa Chondae,  
 Go n-eirí leo an "trí sa ró" a bhaint amach i mbliana.

Go mbeannaí Dia an seastán seo agus gach duine a sheasann ann,  
 Go mbeannaí sé lucht imeartha is lucht féachana araon,  
 Go mbeannaí sé na foirne atá ag imirt ann inniu,  
 Is go mbeannaí sé fear a oscailte, Seosamh MacDonnacha.



*Fr. Pádraig Standún, CC  
 i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh  
 ó 2005 go 2010.*

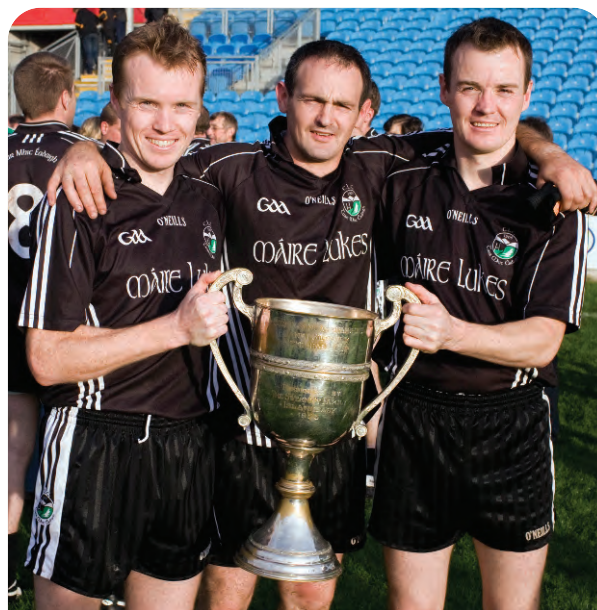


*This piece originally appeared in  
 the Connaught Telegraph, May 16, 2001.*

## BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Since the foundation of the club in 1965, Tourmakeady has always had the reputation of being the “related team”. The panel that won the Connacht Intermediate Championship in 2006 included seven sets of brothers: the Dolans, Walshs, Prendergasts, Naughtons, O’Neills, and Heneghans. Corner-back Pat Heneghan, whose father Tommy and three uncles were on the ’79 and ’82 championship winning teams, had eight nephews with him on the 2006 squad. Also on the ’79 and ’82 teams were the Gavin, Hennelly and Mulrooney brothers. The 1998 Junior champions had six sets of brothers: the Lydons, Farraghers, Heneghans, Naughtons and Walshs.

The ladies teams down the years have also included several sets of sisters, including the Lallys, Dolans, Ronans, O’Neills, Walshs, Heneghans, Gibbons, Lydons, Prendergasts, and Barkers. So when you play against Tourmakeady, you’re not just taking on a team, you’re taking on a family unit !



Brian Naughton, M. J. Meenaghan, and Tom Naughton celebrate the 2010 Intermediate County Final victory.



Left: Eileen, Bernadette, Kathleen, Mary Teresa, Evelyn (mother), and Noreen O’Neill celebrating Mayo Ladies All-Ireland Final victory in Croke Park, September 2002. All five sisters played for Tourmakeady and Mayo, proudly supported by parents Michael and Evelyn. Right: Brothers Stiofán, Antaine and Mícheál O’Neill with team manager Jack Grimes and the Mayo Intermediate Championship Cup at Tourmakeady GAA dinner dance in January 2011.







**The Heneghan family, Tawnagh, Tourmakeady, with parents Mr. and Mrs. Martin Heneghan with six sons who all play for Tourmakeady, also five daughters who play for Tourmakeady ladies football team.**

Out of a family of fourteen, twelve of the "Tom Owen" Heneghans played for Tourmakeady. Pictured above in 1984 are – Back: Owen, Tommy, Martin (father), Maureen (mother), Mattie, Mickey and Jimmy. Front: Katie (Meeneghan), Maudie (McConnell), Stephen, Peig (Mulroe), Bridget (Carr) and Judy (Burke). The youngest brother, Pat, also played in later years.



Siobhán, Úna and Kathleen Ann Heneghan with the Tourmakeady Ladies Junior team in 2010.



David and Brendan Prendergast with Jack Grimes, Tourmakeady GAA club dinner dance, January 2011.

# COMÓRTAS PEILE NA GAELTACHTA



Fáilte go Tuar Mhic Éadaigh, Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta Mhaigh Eo, Márta 2015.

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### ***Stair an Chomórtais sna Blianta Tosaithe 1969-1972***

Bunaíodh Coiste Peile na Gaeltachta go sealadach ar an 5ú Eanáir, 1969 de bharr cuairt a thug foireann peile Bhaile an Fhirtearaigh, Ciarraí ar Ghaoth Dobhair, Dún na nGall. Ní raibh i gceist an bhliain sin ach comórtas peile amháin agus chuir an Iúistis Seán S. Delap, Tír Chonaill an corn ar fáil i gcomhar an chomórtais. Socraíodh an comórtas do Ghaoth Dobhair ón dara go dtí an ceathrú lá de mhí Lúnasa na bliana sin.

Fritheadh sintuisí móra airgid ó na heagrais seo a leanas: Roinn na Gaeltachta £100; Ard-Chomhairle C.L.G. £100; Bord Fáilte £50; Bord Dhún na nGall, C.L.G. £50; Baile Ghibb, Co. na Mí

£50. Thug Gael-Linn na boinn i gcomhar an chomórtais chomh maith le sintuis airgid £10. Níor reachtáladh aon chomórtas contae ach amháin i nDún na nGall, áit a bhuaidh Gaoth Dobhair. B'éigean foirne a lorg ó na contaethe eile Gaeltachta. Ní bhfuarthas aon fhoireann peile ó Chorcaigh le dul go Gaoth Dobhair. Seo iad na foirne go léir a ghlac páirt an bhliain sin: Gaoth Dobhair (Tír Chonaill); Cumann Peile Mhuire (Ciarraí Theas); Cumann Peile na Gaeltachta (Ciarraí Thiar); An Rinn (Port Láirge); Mícheál Breathnach (Conamara); Tuar Mhic Éadaigh (Maigh Eo); Acaill (Maigh Eo); Baile Ghibb (Co. na Mí). I ndiaidh comórtas maith peile, bhuaidh Gaoth Dobhair, Tír Chonaill an cluiche ceannais.



I 1970 cuireadh feabhas mór ar an gcomórtas in iomláin. Ós rud é go raibh seacht gContae Gaeltachta ann, socraíodh go mbeadh dhá fhoireann ón gContae ina a mbeadh an Comórtas an bhliain sin agus foireann ar fad. Socraíodh go mbeadh comórtas i chuile Chontae chun buaitheoirí a fháil le páirt a ghlacadh i gcluichí leath leath-cheannais an chomórtais. Ar mholadh Roinn na Gaeltachta socraíodh gur 20 peileadóir agus 2 oifigeach as gach cumann a bheadh loistín saor in aisce le fáil le linn an chomórtais. Leanadh de riail sin o shin i leith.

An bhliain sin (1970) socraíodh tri chomórtas breise a reachtail chomh maith: 1. Comórtas Cabaret. 2. Comórtas Tráth na gCeist. 3. Comórtas Cailín Gaelach. 'Siad na rialacha céanna beagnach a bheadh leis na Comórtais Cabaret agus Tráth na gCeist agus a bhain leis an gComórtas Peile. Ba iad peileadóirí a bhí le bheith ar fhoireann na gCabaret ach ceadaíodh beirt chailín a bheith páirteach leo. Ní raibh cead ag aon fhoireann Cabaret taispeántas thar fiche nóiméad a chur ar siúl. Ba iad na peileadóirí a bhí le bheith ar fhoireann Thráth na gCeist chomh maith - triúr acu ar gach foireann. I dtaobh Chomórtas Chailín Gaelach, beirt chailín ó gach contae a bhí le bheith páirteach. Leagadh síos rialacha simplí chun iad a thogadh.

Socraíodh comórtais na bliana sin (1970) a bheith i nGaith Dobhair chomh maith ach socraíodh an dáta a athrú go dtí deireadh seachtaine na Cincise i dtús mhí an Mheitheamh. Seo iad na foirne a ghlac páirt i gComórtas Peile na bliana 1970: Cumann Peile na Gaeltachta (Gaillimh); Cumann Peile na Gaeltachta (Ciarraí Thiar); Baile Ghibb (Co. na Mí); Gaith Dobhair (Tír Chonaill); Baile Bhúirne (Corcaigh); An Rinn



Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta 1978 ag Gleann Cholm Cille: Cailíní Gaelach Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, Caitlín Ní Mhaolmhuaidh agus Gearóidín Ní Mhaolruaidh.

(Port Láirge); Acaill (Maigh Eo); Gleann Cholmcille/Cill Charthaigh (Tír Chonaill).

I 1971 bhí na comórtais i mBaile Bhúirne. Bhí athraithe curtha ar chuid de na comórtais. Ceadaíodh na figiúirí seo leanas: suas go 22 duine leis na foirne peile; suas go 10 duine leis an bhfoireann Cabaret; triúr ar fhoireann Thráth na gCeist; beirt chailíní Gaelach o gach contae Gaeltachta. D'fhág sin go mbeadh loistín saor in aisce le fáil ag 27 duine ó gach contae Gaeltachta i mBaile Bhúirne. Mar a tharla sé tuairim 180 a cuireadh loistín ar fáil dóibh san iomláin. Seo

leanas na foirne a ghlac páirt sa Comórtas Peile: Baile Bhúirne (Corcaigh); Maigh Cuilinn (Conamara); Gaoth Dobhair (Tír Chonaill); Tuar Mhic Éadaigh (Maigh Eo); Cill na Martra (Corcaigh); An Ghaeltacht (Ciarraí Thiar); Rath Cairn (Co. na Mí); agus An Rinn (Port Láirge). Bhuaigh Maigh Chuilinn ar Bhaile Bhúirne sa cluiche ceannais. Tugadh Pól Ó Ceallaigh as Baile Átha Cliath chun moltóireacht a dhéanamh ar na cluichí; chuir seo deireadh leis an namhadas a bhí ag teacht isteach sa Chomórtas an bhliain roimhe sin.

Reachtáladh comórtais na bliana 1972 i gCorca Dhuibhne. Ní raibh aon athrú ar na comórtais ach amháin gur reachtáil Raidio na Gaeltachta

comórtas Trath na gCeist agus bhí siad freagrach as na costais go léir a bhain leis. 'Siad na foirne a ghlac páirt sa gcomórtas peile ná: Cumann Peile na Gaeltachta (Ciarraí Thiar); Maigh Chuilinn (Conamara); Gaoth Dobhair (Tír Chonaill); Tuar Mhic Éadaigh (Maigh Eo); An Rinn (Port Láirge); Baile Ghibb (Co. na Mí); Cumann Peile Naomh Muire (Ciarraí Theas); Baile Bhúirne (Corcaigh). Bhuaigh foireann na Gaeltachta, Ciarraí Thiar ar fhoireann Bhaile Bhúirne sa cluiche ceannais. Sa gComórtas Cabaret bhí chuile chontae páirteach ach amháin Co. na Mí. Comórtas iontach a bhí anseo agus bhuaidh Tuar Mhic Éadaigh. Ní mór a rá go bhfuair an Cailín Gaelach duais £100 agus éadach chuile bhliain, agus sna blianta tosaithe ba Gaeltarra Éireann a chuir seo ar fáil di.



Foireann Thuar Mhic Éadaigh a ghlac páirt i gComórtas Peile na Gaeltachta sa Cheathrú Rua, Meitheamh 1976. Ar chúl: Mícheál Ó hÉanacháin, Gearóid Ó Maolruanaigh, Peadar Ó Floinn, Liam Ó hIonnghaile, Uinsíonn Ó hIonnghaile, Tomás Ó hÉanacháin, Tomás de Búrca, Gearóid Ó Tiománaigh, Pádraig de Búrca. Chun tosaigh: Dáithí Middleton, Séamus Mac Giobúin, Liam Mac Cana, Séamus Ó hÉanacháin, Proinsias Ó Maolalla, Seán Ó Sé (captain), Eoin Ó hÉanacháin, Seán Ó hÉanacháin (Cluain Aodha), Peadar Ó hEimhrín, Eoghan Ó Maolruanaigh.



**Cluichí Ceannais Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta****Sóisir**

Bliain	Buaiteoirí	Tanaistí	Ionad
1980	Baile na Sceilge	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	An Fháirche
1983	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	An Cheathrú Rua	Gaoth Dobhair
1988	Rath Cairn	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	An Cheathrú Rua
2000	Mícheál Breathnach's	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	Cill tSéadhna
2001	Piarsaigh na Dromada	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	Piarsaigh na Dromada

**Sinsir**

Bliain	Buaiteoirí	Tanaistí	Ionad
1973	<b>Maigh Eo (TMÉ / Iorras)</b>	Gaoth Dobhair	An Cheathrú Rua
2007	Gaoth Dobhair	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh

Text



Seán Ó Sé ag glacadh Corn Seán de Lapp ar son foireann Gaeltacht Mhaigh Eo ag Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta sa Cheathrú Rua, Meitheamh 4, 1973.



Captaen Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, Máirtín Ó hÉanacháin, ag glacadh Corn Gael-Linn tar éis bua a fhoirne i gCluiche Ceannais (Sóisir) Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta i nGaoth Dobhair, Meitheamh 1983.

## ***An Cailín Gaelach***

*le Bernie Ní Luideáin*



Tá áthas orm gur ghlac mé páirt í gComórtas Peile na Gaeltachta 1996 mar Cailín Gaelach Thuar Mhic Éadaigh. Rinne mé agallamh le Seán Bán Breathnach (SBB) agus bhí orm tallann a thaispeáint. San agallamh léirigh mé mo thuairim go raibh sé mór an trua nach raibh mná ag glacadh páirte sa pheil Ghaelach ag an am sin. Tá mé thar a bheith sásta go bhfuil athrú tagtha ó shin agus go bhfuil gcomórtas na mban ag dul ó neart go neart. Chan mé an amhrán “Cill Aodáin” agus tá cuimhne amháin faoi leith agam ar mhuintir Thuar Mhic Éadaigh thíos sa lucht féachana ag canadh in éineacht liom. Bhí oíche den scoth agam le muintir Thuar Mhic Éadaigh agus leis na Cailíní Gaelacha eile í mBaile Bhúirne an bhliain sin.



Eileen Coyne (Barker), Cailín Gaelach Thuar Mhic Éadaigh 1981



Ann Lally, Cailín Gaelach Thuar Mhic Éadaigh 1972.  
© Photo: Liam Lyons





Siobhán Ní Éanacháin, Cailín Gaelach Thuar Mhic Éadaigh 1991



Felicity Duffy, Cailín Gaelach Thuar Mhic Éadaigh. 1973. © Photo: Liam Lyons

## ***Agallamh le Tomás Ó Máille faoi Chomórtas '72***

Sa bhliain 1972, bhí mé thuas i nGaillimh agus bhí me féin agus Mick Lally ag fanacht in arasán le chéile. Bhí muid ag plé le dramaí agus dúirt mé le Mick: “Caithfidh mé dul síos go Tuar Mhic Éadaigh an deireadh seachtaine seo go gcuirfidh mé cabaret le chéile”. “Ara a dhiabhail,” a deir sé, “agus an bhfuil aon script scríofa agat?”. “Bhuel níl sé scríofa fós agam”, a deir mé, “ach tá sé uile istigh i mo chloigeann, tá mé chun é a dhéanamh ar Raiftearaí an File” – mar bhí eolas maith agam ar comhrá Raiftearaí agus chuile sórt mar sin.

D’inis mé an scéal dó mar a bhí sé, an leagan amach a bheadh air, go mbeadh Raiftearaí ann agus go mbeadh Máire Ní Eidhin ann agus daoine mar iad, agus ceol agus damhsa agus braon le n-ól. “Meastú,” a deirimse le Mick, “an mbeadh suim agat páirt a ghlacadh ann”. “Níl a fhios agam,” a deir Mick, “ach b’fhéidir gurbh é an rud a b’fhearr go ndéanfainn beagán ar leathtaobh na stáitse”. Agus rinne sé cur síos ar shaol Raiftearaí, idir na míreanna beaga. Agus ar ndóigh d’oibrigh sé sin an-mhaith freisin.

Bhí an Comórtas i gCiarraí i 1972, agus tráthúil go leor bhí muid in aghaidh na daoine móra maidir leis an gceol, muintir Chúil Aodha agus Baile Bhúirne – beannacht Dé le Seán Ó Riada, fuair sé bás an bhliain roimhe sin. Bhuel bhí cabaret as chuile Ghaeltacht ann, ach a dhiabhail nuair a tháinig na moltóirí ar an stáitse nár thug siad có-mharcanna dúinn féin agus do muintir Chúil Aodha. Bhí an-áthas orainn. Fuair muid boinn ar fad. “Tabharfaidh muid an corn go Tuar Mhic Éadaigh ar feadh sé míosa”, a dúirt Seán Ó Liatháin agus cuid de na leaids as Cúil Aodha. Agus bhuel, caochadh go leor daoine amach as an gcorn sin, níl dabht ar bith faoi. Níl a fhios agam an dtáinig aon chorn mór ansin dá leithéid

thart anseo riamh. D'fhan sé ansin i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh, níor cuireadh síos go Cúl Aodha é ar chor ar bith! Bhuel, ar an gCeathrú Rua a bhí muid i 1973 nuair a bhuaigh Tuar Mhic Éadaigh an peil agus bhí cabaret déanta agam ansin freisin. Bhí muintir Chúl Aodha ann agus dúirt muid go mbuailfeadh muid le chéile thuas san ostan "Réalt na Maidne", agus bhí muid uile le chéile, muintir na Mumhan agus muid féin, agus bhí an-spórt agus an-craic againn.



Thuas: Beirt fear a bhí páirteach sa ghrúpa Cabaret a bhuaigh an chéad duais ag Comórtas '72: Tomás Ó Máille (ar dheis) agus a chara mór Mícheál Ó Maolalla (RIP). Tógadh an pictiúr seo i Halla Thuar Mhic Éadaigh ar ócáid lainseála leabhair an tAth. Pádraig Standún, Iúil 11, 2010.

Ar chlé: 1972 Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta i gCiarraí – Foireann Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, Buaiteoirí Comórtas Cabaret. Ar chúl: Pádraig Ó Cualáin RIP, Cassie Ní Mhaolalla, Mícheál Ó Maolalla RIP, Áine Ní Fhaoláin, Mícheál Seán Ó Cathasaigh. Chun tosaigh: Tomás Ó Máille, Peadar Ó Gealagáin, Mícheál Seoighe, Máirtín Ó Máille.

## ***Remembering Mick Lally***

*by Paidí Ó Sé*

Mick Lally was not only a fine actor and a household name, but he was, in his youth, a very good footballer. Mick was in goal for Tourmakeady when I played against him for Corca Dhuibhne in the Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta in 1972. The pivotal moment of the match came when the referee awarded us a penalty, which I was given the task of taking. I struck the ball hard and low to Mick's left. He dived full length and managed to get a hand on it just inside the post. But the sequel to it was that Mick broke bones in his hand, possibly as a result of colliding with the post.





Kerry legend, Páidí Ó Sé RIP

In later years, I often discussed the incident with Mick. “A great save,” I would say. “Maybe so,” he would reply, “but I paid a heavy price for it. It ended my football career.” True, Mick, but your great career on screen and stage surely compensated you for that? Though I’m not so sure. John B. Keane used to say he’d swap all his theatrical success for one All-Ireland medal. Perhaps Mick Lally felt the same way.

*Based on an article in the Sunday Independent, September 5, 2010.*

## Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta Final 1973

### WIN FOR MAYO GAELTACHT SIDE

Mayo 2-18 Gweedore (Donegal) 1-14 AET

Mayo, composed in the main of players from Tourmakeady club, won Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta. for the first time, at sunny Carraroe on Monday. Extra time was needed to determine the result and after a rather subdued initial phase, the game developed into a rousing, full-blooded exhibition of the code, without any departure from the canons of good sportsmanship. Gweedore, with the experienced Neilly Gallagher in top form on the 40 yards, were by far the more impressive side in the first half. They led by 0-7 to 0-2 at the interval and were it not for brilliant defensive play by Johnny Carey and Joe Browne that lead would most assuredly have been of bigger proportions. Scorers: Ger Feeney (0-6), Tommy O’Malley (0-6), Tommy Heneghan (1-0), Charlie O’Donnell (1-0), Kevin Dermody (0-2), Michael Flannery (0-2), John Carey (0-1), Mickey Carey (0-1).

Team: R. Cosgrove (Kiltane), S. O’Shea (TMÉ), J. Carey (Kiltane), V. Hennelly (TMÉ), J. Browne



(TMÉ), P. Naughton (TMÉ), G. O’Malley (Ballinrobe), T. O’Malley (Ballinrobe), P. Corrigan (Kiltane), G. Feeney (Ballintubber), C. O’Donnell (TMÉ), M. Flannery (Ballinrobe), K. Dermody (TMÉ), M. Burke (TMÉ), T. Heneghan (TMÉ). Subs: M. Carey (Kiltane). B. Fallon (TMÉ).

*From the Mayo News, June 9, 1973.*



Foireann Gaeltacht Mhaigh Eo (Tuar Mhic Éadaigh / Iorras), Seaimpíní Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta Uilleann 1973. Ar chúil: Pádraig Ó Neachtain (TMÉ), Seán Ó Ciardha (Cill tSéadhna), Pádraig Ó Corragáin (Cill tSéadhna), Tomás Ó hÉanacháin (TMÉ), Mícheál de Búrca (TMÉ), Uinsíonn Ó hlonnghaile (TMÉ), Breandán Ó hÉanacháin (Cill tSéadhna), Risteárd Ó Cosraigh (Cill tSéadhna), Gearóid Ó Maolruanaigh (TMÉ), Martin Ó Ciardha (Cill tSéadhna). Chun tosaigh: Brian Ó Fallúin (TMÉ), Tomás Ó Rónáin, Gearóid Ó Máille (Baile an Róba), Caoimhín Ó Diarmada (TMÉ), Cathal Ó Domhnaill (TMÉ), Seán Ó Sé (TMÉ), Seosamh de Brún (TMÉ), Gearóid Ó Fianáigh (Baile an Tobair), Tomás Ó Máille (Baile an Róba), Mícheál Ó Flannghaire (Baile an Róba), Liam Ó hlonnghaile (TMÉ).





Foireann Comhnasca Mhaigh Eo (Iorras / Tuar Mhic Éadaigh) a bhuaidh Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta 2000 i gCill tSéadhna. Ar chúl: Seán Mac Giobúin (TMÉ), Sinéad de Bairéad, Carina Ní Ciardha, Cáit Uí Ghiobúin (TMÉ), Sharon de Bhál (TMÉ), Rachel de Bairéad, Louise Ní Chearballáin, Máire Lou de Bairéad, Beirní Uí Luideáin (TMÉ), Lorraine Ní Mheanamáin, Niamh Ní Ciardha, Sharon Nic Dhomhnaill, Séamus Ó Domhnaill (RIP). Chun tosaigh: Caroline Ní Chiaráin, Reynagh Ní Chatháin, Imelda Ní Mhaoilearca, Charlene Nic Giollaruaidh, Lorretta Ní Chiaráin, Cassie Nic Eafarcaigh, Duine Eile, Cristín Ní Éanacháin (TMÉ). D'imir Martha Ní Mháille (TMÉ) sa chluiche ach níl sí sa phictiúr mar bhí sí gorthaithe.



Foireann Thuar Mhic Éadaigh a d'imir i gCluiche Ceannais Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta Mhaigh Eo 2012 i mBaile an Chaisil in aghaidh Cill tSéadhna. Ar chúl: Brian Ó Dóláin, Risteárd Ó Tuathail, Máirtín Stundún, Máirtín de Phriondargáist, Eoin Stundún, Brian Ó hÉanacháin, Mícheál Seán Breathnach, Marcus Mac Giobúin, Seán Ó hÉanacháin, Séamus de Grannt, Caoimhín Ó Dóláin, Mícheál Stundún. Chun tosaigh: Séamus Mac Giobúin, Stiofán Stundún, Mícheál Séamus Ó Maoineacháin, Antaine Ó Néill, Brian Ó Neachtain, Tomás Ó Neachtain, Breandán de Phriondargáist, Damien Ó hÉanacháin, Nial Mac Donnchadha, Tomás Stundún, Aaron Ó Conaire, Dónal Ó Luideáin.



Foireann Thuar Mhic Éadaigh a bhuaigh Comórtas Sinsir Peile na Gaeltachta Mhaigh Eo 2009 i bPáirc Naomh Muire. Ar chúl: Tomás Ó Faoláin, Máirtín Stundún, Eoin de Búrca, Mícheál Ó Néill, Pádraig Ó hÉanacháin, Daithí de Phriondargáist, Caoimhín Ó Dóláin, Brian Ó hÉanacháin, Seán de Búrca, Mícheál Ó Ceallaigh, Adrian Ó Dóláin, Seán de Búrca, Séamus Mac Giobúin, Aodhán Ó Diarmada, Jeaic Ó Gormaille. Chun tosaigh: Donncha Ó Cróinín, Piotr Siedlecki (physio), Mícheál S. Ó Maoineacháin, Brian Ó Neachtain (captaen), Dónal Ó Luideáin, Antaine Ó Néill, Mícheál Ó Rónán, Tomás Stundún, Liam Ó Filibín, Breandán de Phriondargáist.

Brian Ó Neachtain ag glacadh an Corn Sinsir ó Eddie Cuffe (RIP) agus Piaras Ó Raghallaigh tar éis bua Thuar Mhic Éadaigh i gcluiche ceannais Mhaigh Eo in aghaidh Béal an Mhuirthead, Páirc Naomh Muire, Márta 2009







Cluiche Ceannais Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta Mhaigh Eo 2011. Seosamh Ó hÉanacháin (TMÉ), Mícheál S. Ó Gallchobhair (Acaill) agus Seán Ó Maidín (Acaill).



Foireann Sinsear Thuar Mhic Éadaigh a bhuaigh cluiche réamh-babhta de Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta in aghaidh Naomh Abán Baile Bhúirne ar scór 1-12 le 0-11 in Árd an Rátha, Bealtaine 30, 2015. Ar chúl: Tomás Ó Faoláin (Roghnóir), Brian Ó Neachtain, Pól Ó Luideáin, Brian Ó hÉanacháin, Séamus Mac Giobúin, Tomás Mac Corthaid, Seán de Búrca (An Cheapaigh Dhuibh), Seán de Búrca (Partraí), Dairín Ó Ceallaigh, Mícheál Ó Néill, Maidhc de Búrca, Eoin de Búrca, Máirtín Stundún, Mícheál Mac Aodhagáin, Pádraig de Búrca (Bainisteoir), Seán Ó Cróinín (Naomh Abán / Baill de CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh 1965). Chun tosaigh: Aaron Ó Conaire, Tomás Stundún, Séan Stundún, Stiofán Stundún, Dónal Ó Luideáin, Daithí de Phriondargáist, Breandán de Phriondargáist, Mícheál Séamus Ó Maoineacháin, Caoimhín Ó Dóláin, Seosamh Ó hÉanacháin.



### SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Tuar Mhic Éadaigh Scór na nÓg set dancers, Connacht champions and All-Ireland runners-up 1979. Back: Marian Staunton, Maureen Conway, Judy Heneghan, Barbara Power. Middle: Pauline Power, Kathleen Staunton, Mary Gibbons, Mary Carr. Front: Mary Staunton, Michael Hennelly, Catherine Ann Staunton. © Photo: Frank Dolan.





Scór na nÓg 1973 - Ballad Group, Mayo County Champions. From left: Eileen Coyne, Cathy Lydon, Eimear King, Carmel Lydon, Bríd Conaboy.

Amongst the stated aims of the Gaelic Athletic Association is that it shall “actively support the Irish language, traditional Irish dancing, music, song, and other aspects of Irish culture. It shall foster an awareness and love of the national ideals in the people of Ireland, and assist in promoting a community spirit through its clubs” (Official Guide, Rule 1.4).

In 1969, the GAA introduced a national talent competition to promote Irish culture. It was broken into two divisions, Scór Sinsir for over-18s and Scór na nÓg for under-18s. The age limit for Scór na nÓg was subsequently lowered to under-17s and a new competition, Scór na bPáistí, was brought in for national school children.

Over the years, CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh has fared very well in Scór at divisional, county, provincial and national level. The club’s Scór na nÓg set dancers won the Connacht title for the first time in 1979 with an outstanding performance and were only beaten by a single

point in the All-Ireland final at the National Stadium in Dublin. The following year, they retained their Connacht title and again went on to represent Mayo at the national finals in Salthill. In 1983, a double victory was celebrated when Tuar Mhic Éadaigh became the first club in the province to win the Connacht Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsir set dancing competitions in the same year. The Senior dancers won Connacht again in 1985, and a fourth Scór na nÓg Connacht set dancing title was brought home in 1986. Great credit must go to Gearóid Mulrooney, who was centrally involved in these victories. Apart from set dancing, Connacht Scór titles were won in Aithriseoireacht (Recitation) by Betty Heneghan in 1973 and again by Michael Power in 1982. In ballad singing and instrumental music, notable successes were achieved by Tomás Ó Máille, Tommy Gavin and Michael Power in the 1970s.



Scór na nÓg dancers 1992. Back: John Heneghan, David Hennelly, Ciarán Rogan, Pat Conway, John Donoghue. Front: Sinéad Cox, Caroline Prendergast, Bernie Lydon, Ita Joyce.

The enthusiasm for Scór competitions has waned since the 1990s but CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh is involved in other activities to promote the Irish language and culture. An annual week-long Campa Samhraidh has run in Páirc Naomh Muire every summer since 2003, in which children engage in various activities through the medium of the Irish language. In 2010 and again in 2015, the club's U-12 team took part in a special Lá na Gaeilge blitz for Gaeltacht clubs in Croke Park. CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh participates in the Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta Mhaigh Eo every year, the winners of which go on to represent the county in the national Comórtas. At time of writing, plans are underway for the hosting of the national Comórtas when it comes to Thuar Mhic Éadaigh for the first time in 2017. In addition to football, the Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta involves

cultural activities and over the years CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh have brought home off-the-field honours such as the Cabaret competition (1972), All-Ireland Gaeltacht set dancing title (1980), and Cailín Gaelach (Sinéad Ní Mháille 1998).

CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh is at the heart of community life in this parish. There is barely a household where at least one family member has not at some time been involved in the club's activities. The club provides a welcoming and friendly social outlet for people of all ages, be they players, mentors, administrators, or supporters. CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh is committed to making our community a better place for everyone and is proud to work with other local groups to advance our collective aims. Ní neart go cur le chéile.



Campa Samhraidh ag Páirc Naomh Muire, Iúil 2014.



## Connacht Scór na nÓg Finals 1979

### IT WAS TOURMAKEADY'S NIGHT

800 people crammed Dr. Douglas Hyde G.A.A. Centre in Roscommon for the Connacht Junior Scór Finals on Saturday night last, February 10th. Recent bad weather forced postponement of the event on two occasions but on Saturday night it was ticket only as Scór fans from all over Connacht converged on the Hyde Centre. Competition for all eight events was white-hot and performances were of a very high standard. As on so many previous occasions Galway were well to the fore, winning three of the eight events, i.e. Figure Dancing, Solo Singing, and Question Time. But Mayo, too, claimed their share of the spoils, taking the Instrumental Music and the Set Dancing.

Happiest man in the Hyde Centre was Gearóid Mulrooney who coached the young set dancers from Tourmakeady to snatch this coveted competition from the toughest opposition.

Barbara and Pauline Power, Maureen Conway, Kathleen and Marian Staunton, Judy Heneghan, Mary Gibbons and Mary Carr gave a faultless performance and they were backed by a splendid musical trio of Mary Staunton, Catherine A. Staunton and Michael Hennelly. Indeed their performance individually and collectively in this the last event of a splendid night's entertainment sent their huge following wild with delight. The Smyth family, Paraic, Paul and Fergus, representing Shamrocks gave a fine performance too in winning the Instrumental music competition for Mayo, and they, with Tourmakeady, will represent Mayo in the All-Ireland Finals in Dublin this coming week-end. We wish them every good luck.

*From an article by Johnny Mulvey in the Western Journal, February 16, 1979*



Tourmakeady Scór na nÓg dancers at the club's annual dinner dance, January 1980. From left: Barbara Power, Maureen Conway, Mary Gibbons, Marian Staunton, Pauline Power, Mary Carr, Kathleen Staunton, Judy Heneghan. © Photo: Frank Dolan.

## ***Lá na Gaeilge 2015 i bPáirc an Chrócaigh***

Liam de Búrca,  
Rút Ní Óráin  
agus Conall  
MacGabhann ag  
imirt i bPáirc an  
Chrócaigh ar  
Márta 30, 2015.



Ar Aibreán 9, 2010, ghlac foireann Faoi-12 CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh páirt i blitz “Lá na Gaeilge” do clubanna ón Ghaeltacht i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. D’imir siad in aghaidh CLG Acla, Carna-Caiseal, Na Píarsaigh (Ros Muc), Bearna, An Cheathrú Rua, agus An Fháirche ar an lá sin. Fuair muid cuireadh arís i 2015 agus bhí lá iontach eile ag ár n-imreoirí óga sa stáid cáiliúil. Bhí cluichí agaibh i gcoinne Baile Bhúirne, Cumann Caide na Gaeltachta (Ciarraí), An Spidéal, agus An Cheathrú Rua. Bhain siad taitneamh agus sult mór as an lá. Tá cúpla focal ó na páistí iad féin ar an leathanach seo a leanas ...

Seán  
Seoighe



Culann Ó  
Ceallaigh





Seán Mac  
Dhuarcáin



Maire Ní  
Éanacháin



*“Nuair a bhí traenáil thart i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh, duirt an bainisteoir linn go mbeidh muid go dul go Páirc an Chrócaigh ar an 30ú lá de mhí Márta. Bhí ríméad an domhain orm.” (Tomás de Phriondargáist)*

*“Ghléas muid agus chuaigh muid sa pharáid. Bhí bratacha móra againn. Chan muid Amhrán na bhFiann. Bhí mé ar bis!” (Áine Ní Éanacháin)*

*“Chonaic mé mo dheartháir Tomás ar an scáileán mór le banna ceoil buachaillí Ard Aidhn.” (Eoin Ó hÉanacháin)*

*“Níor éirigh liom scór a fháil ach ba chuma liom mar bhí mé ag imirt i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Thaitin an lá go mór liom. Ba mhaith liom a bheith ag imirt aríst ann.” (Máire Ní Éanacháin)*

*“Ní dhéanfaidh mé dearmad go deo ar an gcúl agus pointe a scóráil mé.” (Liam Mac Giobúin)*

Liam Mac  
Giobúin



Daithí Ó  
Conalláin



Foireann Faoi-12 Thuar Mhic Éadaigh (Grúpa 1) a ghlac páirt sa blitz do clubanna na Gaeltachta i bPáirc an Chrócaigh ar Márta 30, 2015.

Ar chúl: Liam Mac Giobúin, Seán Mac Dhurcáin, Jessica Ní Uiginn, Leah Ní Luideáin, Máire Ní Éanacháin, Tomás Ó hÉanacháin. Chun tosaigh: Fianach Mac Gabhann, Tomás de Phriondargáist, Pádraig Ó Néill, Culann Ó Ceallaigh.



Foireann Faoi-12 Thuar Mhic Éadaigh (Grúpa 2) a ghlac páirt sa blitz do clubanna na Gaeltachta i bPáirc an Chrócaigh ar Márta 30, 2015. Ar chúl: Áine Ní Éanacháin, Seán Mac Reannacháin, Conall Mac Gabhann, Daithí Ó Conalláin, Ciara Ní Éanacháin. Chun tosaigh: Liam de Búrca, Jeaic de Búrca, Ruth Ní hÓráin, Aaron Mac Sheoinín, Seán Seoighe.





## TOURMAKEADY GAELS ABROAD

***“We are all a product of history and for many of us life began in our beloved county Mayo and is finishing up in various parts of the world ... We have clung to our identity proudly, for that after all, is who you are”.***

*– Frank Horan, President of Mayo Association Luton*

At the present time, there are about 130,000 Irish-born people living in the United States. That is comparable to the entire population of County Mayo. In the state of Illinois alone, there are 9,000 persons who were born in Ireland and well over a million more of Irish origins. Tourmakeady has a long association with the US cities of Chicago and New York where since the 1920s many of our exiles have been prominently involved in Irish-American clubs and societies. Several have achieved notable successes in sport, business, and other walks of life. There are now many thousands of people in the US who can claim Tourmakeady heritage.



The Ronan family proudly flying the Mayo colours in Chicago, August 2014.

Gaelic football has been played amongst Irish exiles in the US for almost as long as the GAA has been in existence, at first in the cities of New York and Boston and later in Chicago. The earliest newspaper reference to an emigrant playing football in Chicago comes from 1955, when Jack Mitchell of Tourmakeady is listed on the Mayo exiles team that played Clare in Rockne Stadium.

In 1956, John McBride's Gaelic Football Club was founded in Chicago. The link between CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh and the McBride's club is particularly strong. There were seven players with Tourmakeady roots on the McBride's Junior team that won the All-American Championship in 2014. Several people from Tourmakeady / Partry have been involved as officers or team managers with McBride's over the years, including Mike Feeney, Pat Gibbons, Tom O'Neill, Mike Heneghan, Seán Derrig, and Dennis Harrington. Many Tourmakeady players have worn the McBride's colours, and in 1979 and 1986 CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh toured the US as guests of John McBride's GFC. Other clubs in Chicago with Tourmakeady connections include St. Brendan's (with whom Adrian Gavin won an All-American Championship in the 1980s), Windy City Gaels (of which Tom Molloy is a founder member), and Chicago Celtic Youth GFC (Barker family).

On the occasion of the Tourmakeady Reunion

## Tourmakeady Gaels Abroad

in 2002, a Chicago exiles team managed by Pat Gibbons played a home-based team in a football tournament in Páirc Naomh Muire. The winners were presented with the Emigrants Cup on the steps of Ardán na nDeoraí (the Exiles Stand), which was opened a few months previously.

Looking at the New York GAA scene, local players who featured with the Mayo NY team include Aidan Horan (captain 1950s), Martin Lydon (1960s/'70s), and Kevin Dermody (1970s). At the present time, second-generation Tourmakeady woman Mary Coyne-Byrne is involved with the Mayo club in New York.

Links with Britain are mainly with London-based clubs. Mattie Heneghan, Joe Dolan and Paul Gavin all played inter-county football with London in the 1980s. In more recent times, Séamus Gibbons has played with Glasgow Gaels and Fergus O'Neill from Partry is currently the goalkeeper for St. Colmcille's Cardiff.

Tourmakeady Gaels abroad have a strong bond with their native place and down the years have given wonderful support to CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh and other local organisations. Míle buíochas libh go léir.



Ardán na nDeoraí in Páirc Naomh Muire, which was opened in 2001, was built with the assistance of funds donated by Tourmakeady exiles overseas



Mattie Heneghan (left) played inter-county football with London from 1985 to 1995. He is pictured here in Ruislip on June 4, 1989 as London team captain, with referee Eddie Neary (Sligo) and Galway captain John Fallon before the clash of the two teams in the Connacht Senior Championship





## McBride's Ladies - Chicago Champions - Late 1980s

Back: Séamus Hughes (Carnacon), Karen Kelly (Chicago), Patty Kelly (Chicago), Kathy Kelly (Chicago), Colleen Heneghan (Chicago), Ann Mangan (Belmullet), Mary Foley (Chicago), Therese Travers (Chicago), Marcella Staunton (Chicago), Mary Quinn? (Leitrim), Colleen Kelly (Chicago), Theresa Heneghan (Chicago). Front: Fiona Clancy (Dublin), Katherine Larkin (Ballintubber), Eileen Murphy (Meath), Phil Gleeson, Noreen Hughes (Tourmakeady), Barbara O'Flaherty (Chicago), Patricia Gibbons (Tourmakeady), Marion Geraghty (Ballintubber), Bridie Dolan (Tourmakeady), Siobhán Lally (Tourmakeady). Lying across front: Rita Lally (Chicago).

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Tourmakeady brothers Kevin and Adrian Dolan helped John McBrides to win the Chicago Junior 'A' Championship in 2008.



David Lally won a North American Intermediate Championship with Galway Boston at the 2006 finals in Philadelphia.



## ***Tuar Mhic Éadaigh v Windy City Gaels U-14s, July 2, 2013***



Catch me if you can! Patrick Lydon on the run against Windy City Gaels with Cathal O'Connor, Luke Deeley, Michael Molloy and Fiona Rowan in pursuit.



Chicago girls with Tourmakeady roots. Sinéad Molloy and Aoife Swan enjoying the visit of Windy City Gaels to Tourmakeady.



Cousins Lisa Gibbons, Michael Molloy, Seán Molloy, Seán Molloy, Sinéad Molloy, Fiona Molloy, and Cian Gibbons.





## ***From Tourmakeady to John McBride's GFC, Chicago***

*by Pat Gibbons, Chicago*

At the outset I'd like to take this chance to offer a sincere thanks to the secretary of Tourmakeady GAA club, Michael Lang, who invited me to make this contribution to the recollections offered for the 50th anniversary of the club's founding.

When I came to Chicago in 1973, I joined John McBride's Gaelic Football Club. The club was founded in 1956 by Joe Kilroy from Newport and others. Joe was an inspirational figure who many will remember as having been a senior player for Mayo in the 1940s. I was not the first native of the parish to be a part of the McBride's set up. Let me take a brief survey of the Tourmakeady natives that played for McBride's in the following decades. Beginning with the 1960s, there was Pat Miller, Jim Lally RIP, Mickey Dermody RIP, and Mickey Heneghan from Srah who played for 18 years and most certainly would have been a candidate for the "green and red" jersey had he stayed back home. Mickey played centre back for Ballintubber, training in the bog. Those were the days before football became established in Tourmakeady.

The 1970s saw Peadar Flynn, Pat Naughton, Christy and Kevin Dermody. I remember very well in 1975 when we played Toronto in Cleveland; Kevin worked on the Saturday, drove over-night, and scored 1-4 from play on the Sunday.

There was also Martin Lally "Frank", Brian Fallon (who was a tremendous athlete and had the

level of fitness of the county lads of today), Tom O'Neill from Derryveeney, Seán Lally "Reilly", and Michael Lally "Reilly" RIP. I arrived myself in the 70s and for the next 14 years I tried to keep the ball out of the net in Chicago and on the road throughout the mid-west.

The 1980s brought loads of serious talent, amongst them Seán Derrig. The first game he played, an old timer from Tourmakeady observed "that lad wants to be full back and full forward at the same time". There was also Danny Derrig, Tommy Joe Derrig, Kevin Derrig, Tom Molloy, Joe Lally "Frank", Brian Gibbons (who could have been an All-Star had he trained), Kevin Heveran, Willie Barker, Pat Barker,



Pat Gibbons in Heaney's Field in the early 1970s

Paraic Thornton, Seamus Hughes (he could run all day) and Michael Kelly. We had four fine Irish-American players in the Miller brothers, Patrick and Jimmy (sons of Pat Miller '60s from Carheen) and also the Maloney brothers, James and Colm. On one day in the late '70s we played on the South Side, five of the team were involved in a car accident and we had to start with 11 players. I went to the stand to recruit a few more and the only volunteer was Michael Gibbons "Foody". He played between the posts until half-time. For the second half we had the full team and won by the narrowest of margins, a single point.



From the 1990s they must have changed the drinking water as we had big men arriving over from Tourmakeady. Then came Johnny Ronan "The General", Martin Ronan, Stephen Ronan, Jimmy Ronan, Pat Ronan, Seán Folan, Frankie Carr, Mike Walsh and John Donoghue. We had two local Chicago-born lads, Brendan Murphy and his cousin Pat Heneghan "The Wrecker".

From 2000 to the present saw the arrival of Tom and Stephen Gibbons, Mícheál Ronan, Adrian Lally, Eamon Lally and Martin Durkin. Along the way we have had lads who joined us for a shorter period over the summer vacation such as Eddie Gibbons and Mattie Heneghan "Tom Eoin." In more recent times the McBride's have been sustained by Adrian and Kevin Dolan, Brian Naughton, Anthony and Stephen O'Neill, James

Joyce, David Prendergast, Liam and Pádraig Philibin, Brian Heneghan and Pádraig Burke. Currently we have Michael Kelly Jnr., Mickey Heneghan and Chicago-born lads, namely Seán Derrig Jnr., Pat Lally, Mattie Ronan Jnr., TJ Lally and Shane Heverin.

I'd like to mention one individual in particular who has contributed much to the GAA in exile and that is Michael Feeney of Waterworks Road. He was Chairman of McBride's and also of the North American County Board. Michael also managed the team and on the line was "a great man to read the game". He was ably assisted by Mícheál Molloy.

One of the highs of my career was to lead McBride's to do battle against Tourmakeady on a hot day in August 1979. The occasion was the visit of the Tourmakeady Club to Chicago and we played on the astro turf of Hanson Stadium. Seán Feeney was the referee that day and a fine and impartial job he did. No matter where I kicked the ball in the first half, there was a "Tom Eoin" under it. At half-time our manager Michael Maloney, a Donegal man married to Judy Miller from Carheen, said "Gibbons, it's not in Heaney's field you are now". The second half went better but we still lost. At the party that night a great Cavan man, Pat McNally RIP, said "I thought only hares could run that fast". As the night went on we figured he was talking about Mulrooney and O'Toole. A week later the second game was played on the South Side and we won that, I still have the trophy to this day. Tommy "Tom Eoin" blames the loss on the Tourmakeady boys partying too much. One notable mention must go to a couple of players who were drafted for the tour: they were Gerry Feeney RIP and Stephen Kelly Breaffy, both of whom played their hearts out for their



neighbouring club. That same touring group travelled east to Detroit for two further games, both of which they won. Chicago has never hosted a visiting group like that; friendships were forged over those days that endure to this day. In 1986 we had another touring group composed of an amalgamation of Tourmakeady and Ballintubber. The visitors played a game in Chicago and also journeyed north to play an exhibition game against a Chicago selection at the Milwaukee Fest, a famous August event which is still one of the largest Irish Music festivals in the USA.

In conclusion, I'd like to offer a special thanks to the founding members who worked so hard to support and sustain the GAA in Tourmakeady. They gave me a great love for the games and inspired me to be part of a group that have

brought me so much enjoyment over the years, it is something I still enjoy more than fifty years later. Here in particular I'd like to mention my earliest mentors, my Mom and Dad Tom and Delia Gibbons and my neighbour Martin Heaney who I realised in later years was a native of that great nursery of football, Garrymore, and by co-incidence was a next-door neighbour to my wife Norah Burke. Last but not least, that great Kerry man Seán O'Shea, by far the best full back I ever played behind. I've witnessed many changes since that first summer playing Gaelic football with the McBride's in Chicago. One thing that never changes is no matter where I am, the mention of Gaelic football always brings my mind back to where it all began for me in Heaney's field.



The Gibbons family in Treanlaur in the 1960s. Pat Gibbons proudly shows off his football and Mayo socks.



John McBride's GFC Chicago, Junior Team 1999. Back: Dan O'Leary (Chicago), John Morley (Ballyhaunis), Alan Staunton (Ballintubber), Gareth Woods (Louth), Jim Ronan (Tourmakeady), Thomas Perkins, Joe Lyons (Ballinrobe), Kevin Donnelly (Ballintubber), Patrick Perkins, John Donoghue (Tourmakeady). Front: Brian Donnelly (Ballintubber), Colm Staunton (Ballintubber), John Marrinan (Clare), Mattie Ronan (Tourmakeady), Stephen Ronan (Tourmakeady), Frankie Carr (Tourmakeady), David Hayes (Ballintubber), Gerry Geraghty (Ballintubber).

The Tourmakeady contingent of John McBrides celebrating their win in the Chicago Junior A championship 2014. Back: Patrick Gibbons, Seán Derrig, Mícheál Ronan, Stephen Ronan, Martin Ronan, Thomas Ronan, Jimmy Ronan, Adrian Lally. Front: Mike Kelly, Seán P. Derrig, Martin Seán Ronan, Pádraig Philbin, Liam Philbin, Paddy Lally, Mícheál Heneghan.





## ***“Returning to the Heartland”***

*by Keith Duggan (Irish Times)*

This weekend (September 2004), the exiles will flood back into Mayo and, in particular, to Tourmakeady, the verdant stretch of townland that runs between the shore of Lough Mask and the dark Party Mountains. On Mayo's football scroll of honour, Tourmakeady has made little impression, but in terms of the game and its meaning to Mayo the place represents what is vaguely referred to as “the heartland”. For most of the last century, Tourmakeady has bled people. Just as Achill folk gravitated towards Cleveland, Tourmakeady worked up an unbreakable affinity with Chicago. Since the 1930s, Tourmakeady men worked on the sky-reaching buildings off Lake Michigan, pining for the plain and familiar shore of the Mask, one of the untapped beauty spots of the west. The leaving continued more or less unchecked until the 1980s ended, and now that the exodus has stopped it is said there are as many Tourmakeady people out in America as are left in the native area.

“The club here did two tours of Chicago, one in 1979 and again in 1986,” says Tourmakeady club chairman Pádraig Ó hÉanacháin. “I ended up going out ahead of the club in 1986, so I was in the airport when the team landed. Growing up, I was always aware of the connection, but it was only that night in the arrival hall I learned the scale of it. There must have been 500 people waiting there with Tourmakeady links.”

The Ó hÉanacháins do not consider themselves

anything other than an ordinary GAA/Mayo family, and yet they are immersed in Gaelic football. Pádraig played on the 1981 Tourmakeady championship side that caused a bit of a stir by beating Garrymore – “they were the kingpins then” - in the Under-16 B championship. The club would win a county junior title the following year and had reason to be optimistic for the seasons ahead. But by the time that generation of Under-16 footballers reached the Under-21 grade, nine of their number had left Ireland.

Pádraig, a bank official in Westport, was one who stayed. Like his father Tom, a schoolmaster in the nearby townland of Srah, he grew accustomed to watching the phenomenon of young people disappearing. Emigration was always a fact, but after Tom secured a teaching post in Tourmakeady in 1947, it worsened dramatically. “Nearly every lad I went to school with left,” Tom says. “Nearly every one of them. Some would come back for a visit, but others were not seen around here again. All of the lads I went to school with had big families - 12 in that house, 9 in that - they all left. I would say the present population is not even half of what it was, especially in the southern half.”

“The 50s was the worst. While it was bad in the 30s, at least then it was confined to America. World War II, funnily, put a stop to it, and although there was fairly dire poverty, there was good fun around here. In the 50s, they started for England. There were bad stories of men tramping

all over the place looking for work. They used to tell how they would move a cow lying down in a field and sleep in the spot for warmth. Entire families left. Houses closed up. It was really frightening. We felt that whole townlands would close down. It was really depressing.”

Tom attended Mayo's first All-Ireland victory, over Laois in 1936. He can still name that team, starting with Tom Burke in goal, at the drop of the hat, and because he was 14 and in thrall he possibly retains



Owen Roe O'Neill (left) in goal for UCG v UCD in the 1954 Sigerson Cup Final.

a stronger affection for them than the famous 1950/51 Mayo team. Football was unorganised in Tourmakeady then – “We made attempts at it when we had a ball” – but interest in the game was enthusiastic. The local schoolteacher was a GAA and Fianna Fáil fanatic and made it his business to secure a copy of the Irish Press newspapers that were delivered on the milk lorry. Eventually a number of Fianna Fáil-oriented men took to gathering at Donoghue's shoemakers on a nightly basis. “A namesake of my own, Lord have mercy on him, would read the paper aloud for those that had gathered there. Green Flag was the big GAA columnist. And then the rows would start.”

Tom married into distinguished football stock. His wife, Joan O'Neill, came from Ballinrobe, and her brother Owen Roe played in goal for Mayo in the mid-1950s, including the All-Ireland semi-final defeat against Dublin in 1955. A particular save he made from Kevin Heffernan earned him the sobriquet “the prince of goalkeepers” from a young Michael O'Hehir. Her younger brother, Art, a suitably named forward full of skill and guile, was deemed to be one of the best young footballers in the county, and although he played for Mayo in 1959 at the age of 20, his career was sadly ended by a serious knee injury.

Ballinrobe was generally the point of departure for family members forced into emigration, and from her early childhood Joan considered the now defunct railway station a place to dread. “It was always a very morbid thing. I have a terrible memory of Ballinrobe railway station, I hated going there. Because any time you would go there you would find parents bringing maybe their daughters or their sons there and crying their hearts out.



Because there was always the chance they would never see them again. It was horrendous.”

Tourmakeady GAA came into existence in 1965. Around the same time, Gaeltarra Éireann set up a knitwear factory in the village, a small, vital industry whose worth was infinitely greater than the profit it showed on the ledger. It was a means for some young people to remain in the area and, more significantly, it attracted some new people into the area. Through the dark years, the lights from the knitwear factory were a comfort. Three years ago, though, it was switched to Bangalore, India. “I worked there myself for a brief period in the mid-1980s,” Pádraig says. “I suppose there was about 60 of us in there at the time, which is significant in a small community.”

“Without it,” Tom says, “the whole thing would have been a wash-out.” As with the rest of the country, Tourmakeady stabilised in the final years of the last century. The bleeding stopped. Drive through the place this September [2004] and you are struck not with any sign of lingering poverty but by the deep and untouched beauty of the place. There are plenty of fine houses with stunning views of the choppy, black waters of Lough Mask. Many are the summer dwellings of the sons of Tourmakeady who found wealth in Chicago. Tourmakeady has millionaires now, though not necessarily in Tourmakeady. Through the decades, generous sums of money found their way across the Atlantic. For families. For the church renovations. For the club. The covered stand is called Ardán na nDeoraí. The Exiles Stand. The Stand of Tears.

It is a pretty ground, Tourmakeady’s, located in a

low spot to give it some cover from the wind that blows off the lough. When Mayo are on the All-Ireland trail all club activity stops, so it will be a winter championship for Tourmakeady this season. The fervent hope is, of course, that the Sam Maguire will visit the clubhouse before Christmas. Regardless of how Sunday’s final goes, Tourmakeady will enjoy a series of homecomings that will start in earnest tonight and last for the rest of the week. “People’s hearts stay here, I am convinced of that,” Joan said. In the grimmest days, it was feared that Tourmakeady might fall into complete abandonment. That has not happened, although emigration has altered the natural demographic of the area harshly. In Tom’s teaching days, there was a period when the national school in Srah had three teachers and 110 pupils. Today it houses 14 kids.

The census would probably register the current population at around 1,100, but of course the census does not travel as far as the Irish haunts of Chicago. Perhaps this week would give a truer reflection of its people.



Srah N.S.

*An extended version of this article originally appeared in the Irish Times, September 24, 2004.*

## HURLING AND CAMOGIE

Legend has it that hurling was played on the plains and bogs of Mayo in ancient times. The earliest newspaper reference to hurling in Mayo is from 1756, when it was reported in *Pue's Occurrences* that the Baronies of Costello and Gallen would hurl for fifty guineas against the Baronies of Clanmorris and Carra on August 14th at Ballynacarrick (near Brees). In the parish of Ballyovey, local folklore has it that a stick-and-ball game involving whole villages used to be played in Derrew in the nineteenth century in the level ground along the banks of the Aille River. The winning team captured the match ball and then competed against teams from other villages for the right to retain it. Hurling may also have been played in "Patsy's field" in Srah in the 1920s on untilled lay land. There has never been a hurling club in the parish of Ballyovey, but a number of local players have won honours with the Ballinrobe Hurling Club, which was reformed in recent years as Moytura Gaels. The Mulrooney and Harrington brothers from Partry (1970s/'80s), and more recently the Forde brothers, have all enjoyed success in the small ball game. Jack and Sam Forde were involved with the Mayo Minor hurling team that won the All-Ireland "C" Championship in 2013 and again in 2014. Sam also won the Mayo U-16 Poc Fada in 2013 and achieved a second place finish in the Connacht Poc Fada.

Whereas there has never been a hurling club in the parish, there have been a number of camogie clubs. Mayo was a strong camogie county in the 1950s and a club was established in Tourmakeady

Jack and Sam Forde (Partry) pictured in Ballinamore in September 2014 after winning the All-Ireland Minor Hurling 'C' Championship Final for the second year in a row.



in July 1956. The officers were Thomas O'Toole, Miss M. McDonnell, Kathleen Molloy, and May O'Malley. No known records survive of this club's activities. Camogie was also played in Coláiste Muire at that time. Between 1971 and 1973, there was an active camogie club in Tourmakeady and they competed against teams from Turlough, Ballintubber, Breaffy, Achill, Balla and elsewhere. In April 1989, Anne Naughton, Breda Lydon, Teresa Prendergast and Cassie Hennelly helped to re-establish a camogie club for young girls in Tourmakeady (U-12 up to U-16). It lasted for two enjoyable seasons, during which time they competed in county competitions and Community Games.





Tourmakeady juvenile camogie team 1989. Back: Ann Naughton, Breda Lydon, Linda O'Shea, Cathy Clarke, Tracey Clarke, Catherine Joyce, Joan Mulqueen, Sandra Prendergast, Siobhán Naughton, Cassie Hennelly. Middle: Mary O'Brien, Tracey Cooling, Sinéad Cox, Deirdre Naughton, Deirdre Staunton, Paula Mahony, Caroline Prendergast, Orla Hennelly. Front: Teresa Lydon, Marie Gibbons, Sinéad Ní Mháille, Karen Hennelly.

Tourmakeady juvenile camogie team 1989.







Tourmakeady juvenile camogie team 1990. Back: Teresa Prendergast, Sandra Prendergast, Joan Mulqueen, Siobhán Naughton, Catherine Joyce, Tracey Clarke, Ann Naughton. Front: Breda Lydon, Teresa Lydon, Mary O'Brien, Caroline Prendergast, Deirdre Staunton, Deirdre Naughton.

Tourmakeady U-14 camogie team, Mayo county champions 1990. Deirdre Naughton, Catherine Joyce, Tracey Cooling, Sandra Prendergast, Deirdre Staunton, Joan Mulqueen, Bernie Lydon, Michelle Lydon, Caroline Prendergast, Jacqueline Conway, Orla Hennelly, Siobhán Naughton.





## THE GREEN ABOVE THE RED

***“The love of the Green and Red is a defining characteristic of thousands upon thousands of Mayo people all over the world. We love the jersey, the history it embodies, the permanent prospect of sensation it offers. Those thrilling colours stir something deep within us – the rich, traditional Green, above the bold, unpredictable Red.”***

*– Liam Horan*

Over the years, several players from the parish of Ballyovey have enjoyed the privilege of wearing the green and red jersey. The first was Joe Horan (Portroyal), who featured with Mayo back in the 1920s. Thirty years later, his son Con played for Mayo Minors (1956). Mick O'Malley was goalkeeper for Mayo Seniors and Juniors in the 1950s. In more recent times there have been many others, including Mícheál Molloy, Michael James Meenaghan, Brendan Prendergast, Tom Naughton, Brian Naughton, Frank Carr, Colm Ó Conghaile and Adrian Farragher. Tommy Heneghan (1974)

and David Prendergast (2006) are the holders of All-Ireland U-21 medals. In ladies football, Bernie O'Neill, Eileen O'Neill, Nuala O'Shea, Martha Ní Mháille, Shellie Gibbons, Kathleen Ann Heneghan, Cáit Morahan and Denise Horan are amongst the many club members who have won national honours with Mayo (see lists in the next chapter). And then there are the faithful supporters at home and abroad, for whom the annual ritual of following the fortunes of Mayo is a natural and essential part of their identity.



There were three Tourmakeady women on the 1987 Mayo Junior Ladies All-Ireland Champions team, the first adult title won by the county in ladies football. The O'Neill sisters, Eileen and Bernie, are in the back row (fourth from left and second from right), and Cáit Morahan is second from left at front.



Four Tourmakeady girls on Mayo U-14 All-Ireland Champions team 1994: Kathleen Ann Heneghan, Lorraine O'Neill, Martha Ní Mháille and Aoife Ní Mháille



Tom Naughton and Brendan Prendergast won the Connacht U-16 Ted Webb Cup with Mayo in 1996.



Foireann Faoi-16 Gaeltacht Mhaigh Eo a d'imir cluiche cairdiúil in aghaidh Gaeltacht na Gaillimhe i bPáirc Naomh Muire, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh ar Lúnasa 5, 2012. Ar chúil: Darragh Ó Murchú (Cill Chomáin), Lúic Ó Cosraigh (Cill tSéadhna), Jeaic Mac Giollarnáth (TMÉ), Daithí O hÚrdáil (TMÉ), Toirleach Ó Duibhir (Acaill), Aaron Aindí Ó hÉalaí (Cill Chomáin), Maidhc de Búrca (TMÉ), Maitiú Ó Tuirbhear (Cill tSéadhna), Cory Mac Ghiolla Bháin (Acaill), Caoimhín Ó Maolalla (TMÉ), Eoghan Mac Craith (Cill Chomáin). Chun tosaigh: Ciarán Stundún (TMÉ), Mícheál Seoighe (TMÉ), Cathal Stundún (TMÉ), Sam Mac Giollarnáth (TMÉ), Colm Ó Flannabhra (Cill tSéadhna), Maitiú Ó Seibhleáin (Béal an Mhuirthead), Roy Mac Lochlainn (Acaill), Tiarnáin Ó Cuana (Acaill), Darragh Mac Conaill (TMÉ).





Bridget Walsh, dedicated Mayo supporter, with the medals she won at national Special Olympics Games in June 2014.



Lisa, Brian, and John Gibbons with the National Football League Cup in 2001.



Left: Larry Conlon and Oisín Whelan of S.N. Thuar Mhic Éadaigh were on the Mayo team that participated in the Cumann na mBunscol Mini-7s game against a Galway schools selection, played at half-time in the meeting of the same two counties in the Connacht SFC at Pearse Stadium on May 19, 2013.

Right: Seán Seoighe of S.N. Thuar Mhic Éadaigh played in Croke Park in front of a crowd of 65,435 at half-time during the Mayo v Tyrone All-Ireland SFC semi-final on August 25, 2013.





Tourmakeady girls on tour, August 4, 2013: Teresa Lally, Síle Kelly, Megan Seery and Megan Heneghan ahead of Mayo v Donegal All-Ireland SFC quarter-final.  
© Photo: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE



Left: Bríd and Seán Heaney, Treanlaur with the Sam Maguire Cup in 1952.

Right: Michael and Mícheál Lang, Carheen with the Tommy Markham Cup in 2014.





# *All Aboard ! From Glenmask to Croke Park, September 1951*

*by Colman Ó Raghallaigh*

It is often said that every county in Ireland would like to see Mayo win the All-Ireland football championship. Whatever about the other counties one thing is certain; every man, woman and child in Mayo is longing for that day. For years we have travelled to support our team borne along on waves of optimism but the sad fact of the matter is that despite some glorious victories in quarter-finals and semi-finals, we have not managed to attain the summit of All-Ireland glory since 1951. The litany of disappointments is one that would break the spirit of many a rational person and yet there remains the extraordinary sense that no matter how often we are defeated, no matter how often we travel down from Dublin on that well-worn trail of tears, the Mayo supporter will always rise again at the first sign of progress by the Green and Red. Among my most treasured possessions is a pair of train tickets for that All-Ireland Final of 1951. My uncle Paddy Collins, a native of Glenmask, Tourmakeady and his new bride Margaret Canavan of Brocagh, Co. Tyrone, were home from England and spending part of their honeymoon in Claremorris with my

mother. Paddy had also attended the All-Ireland of the previous year and on September 23rd 1951, he and Margaret duly boarded the GAA excursion special from Claremorris to Westland Row and were in Croke Park to see Seán Flanagan, the Mayo captain, raise the Sam Maguire as Mayo won their 2 in-a-row.

In 2002, following my Uncle's death, my Aunt Margaret gave me one of those precious train tickets as a present and following Mayo's disastrous defeat to Kerry in 2006, my cousin Edwina sent me the other, to "cheer you up" as she put it. Prior to that 2006 final my Aunt, still a loyal Tyrone follower, had written me a beautiful letter informing me that she and my uncle would have been married 55 years on that 8th of September and reminding me that, "We were there on that glorious day. It's time for a repeat." And so it is.

Once again (September 2013) as we enter the final days before the great occasion we feel the pride surging through the whole county, the highways and byways bedecked in green and red, the hush of expectation and the familiar knot in the stomach. This time, le cúnamh Dé, the shackles will be thrown off and the memories of the bad old days will be banished forever. In truth, no one can adequately put into words what it would mean to win ... just once!



Ag tnúth le  
Corn Sam  
Mhic Uidhir.  
Droim  
Chagaidh,  
Meán  
Fómhar  
2013.



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What's another year?  
At the Lough Mask Inn,  
September 2013.



Níor tháinig Sam ach fáilte mór roimh Corn  
Tommy Markham go Tuar Mhic Éadaigh.  
Sean Bhaile Ard, Márta 2014.





Mayo Minors dual success 2013: the All-Ireland Minor Football Cup (Tommy Markham Cup) and All-Ireland Minor 'C' Hurling Shield visit Partry National School, March 7, 2014.



Pupils of S.N. Coill a' tSidheáin hold the Tommy Markham Cup aloft, March 7, 2014.





All-Ireland Minor Football and Hurling trophies at Srah Naíonra, March 7, 2014

The Sam Maguire Cup at Treanlaur National School in 1952 (Mayo All-Ireland Champions Sept. 1950 & '51)





## CLUB RECORDS

### *Roll of Honours - Mens Football*

#### **All-Ireland Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta (Sinsear)**

Winners: 1973 (Maigh Eo)

Runners-up: 2007

#### **All-Ireland Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta (Sóisear)**

Winners: 1983

Runners-up: 1980, 1988, 2000, 2002

#### **All-Ireland 7-a-side Junior/Intermediate Tournament**

Winners: 2006

#### **Gael-Linn Gaeltacht Tournament**

Winners: 1973

#### **Connacht Intermediate Football Championship**

Winners: 2006

#### **Connacht Junior Football Championship**

Winners: 1998 (played March 1999)

#### **Mayo Intermediate Football Championship**

Winners 1982, 2006, 2010

Runners-up: 1981, 2009

#### **Mayo Junior Football Championship**

Winners: 1979, 1998

#### **Mayo U-21 'B' Football Championship**

Winners: 1999

#### **Mayo 7-a-side Football Championship**

Winners: 1984

#### **West Mayo Junior "A" Football Championship**

Winners: 1979, 1998

Runners-up: 1972, 1995, 1997

#### **West Mayo Football League (Kelly Cup)**

Winners: 1978, 2004

Runners-up: 1980, 2009

#### **West Mayo Junior "B" Football Championship**

Runners-up: 2005, 2010, 2012

#### **West Mayo Junior Football Winter League**

Runners-up: 1969, 1970



Connacht Intermediate  
Champions 2006



Mayo Intermediate  
Champions 2010

## Club Records

### West Mayo U-21 Football Championship

Runners-up: 1980, 1984

### West Mayo U-21 "B" Football Championship

Winners: 1997

### West Mayo U-20 Football Championship

Winners: 2000

### West Mayo 7-a-side Football Championship (Davitt Shield)

Winners: 1984

### South Mayo (Ballinrobe District) League

Winners: 1926 (Partry)



West Mayo Junior  
Champions 1998

## Roll of Honours - Ladies Football

### All-Ireland Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta (Peil na mBan)

Winners: 1975, 1984 (7-an-Taobh), 2000 (Maigh Eo)

### Connacht Senior Football Championship (Ladies)

Runners-up: 1983

### Connacht Intermediate Football Championship (Ladies)

Runners-up: 2001

### Connacht Junior Football Championship (Ladies)

Runners-up: 2010

### Mayo Senior Football Championship (Ladies)

Winners: 1982

Runners-up: 1983, 1984

### Mayo Senior Football League (Ladies)

Winners: 1984

Runners-up: 1981, 1982, 1983, 1996

### Mayo Intermediate Football Championship (Ladies)

Winners: 2001

### Mayo Junior Football Championship (Ladies)

Winners: 1994, 2010

Runners-up: 1993, 2013

### Mayo Junior Football League (Ladies)

Winners: 1994

Runners-up: 1992, 1993, 2010, 2014



Mayo Intermediate  
Champions 2006 (Mens)



## ***Roll of Honours - Juvenile Football (Boys)***

### **U-12 County Championship**

Winners: 1987 "B"

Finalists: 2014 (Section F)

### **U-13 County League**

Runners-up: 2009 (Div.3)

### **U-14 County Championship**

Winners: 2010 "D", 2012 "D"

Runners-up: 2013 (Div.5), 2015 (Div.5)

### **U-14 County League**

Winners: 1999 (Div.4), 2010 (Div.5), 2011 (Div.5) Runners-up: 1996 (Div.3)

### **U-16 County Championship**

Winners: 1981 "B", 2009 "C", 2010 "C"

Runners-up: 1979 "B"

### **Minor County Championship**

Winners: 2012 "C"

### **Minor County League**

Winners: 1997 "C", 2003 (Div.4), 2011 (Div.5) Runners-up: 1998 (Div.2)

### **Minor Summer League**

Winners: 2010 (Div.3)

Runners-up: 2012 (Div.4)

### **West Mayo U-12 "B" Championship**

Winners: 1987, 1993, 1997

Runners-up: 1982, 1988, 2004

### **West Mayo U-14 "B" Championship**

Runners-up: 1979, 1980, 1996

### **West Mayo U-16 "B" Championship**

Winners: 1979, 1981, 1996, 2012

Runners-up: 1980

### **West Mayo Minor "A" Championship**

Winners: 1970 (St. Patrick's)

Runners-up: 1962 (Partry)

### **West Mayo Minor "B" Championship**

Runners-up: 1983, 1988, 1996, 1997, 2003



## ***Roll of Honours - Juvenile Football (Girls)***

### **U-13 County Championship**

*Winners:* 2014 (Div.3)

### **Minor County Championship**

*Runners-up:* 1985, 1998

## ***Roll of Honours - Camogie***

### **Primary Schools Competition**

*Runners-up:* 1989

### **U-14 County Competition**

*Winners:* 1990

*Runners-up:* 1989

### **U-14 Community Games**

*Runners-up:* 1989, 1990

### **U-16 County Competition**

*Runners-up:* 1990



## ***Roll of Honours – Schools Football***

### **Cumann na mBunscol (Boys / Mixed) County Championship**

*Winners:* 1998 (S.N. Coill an tSidheáin)

*Runners-up:* 1996 (S.N. Trian Láir), 2013 (S.N. TMÉ)

### **Cumann na mBunscol (Girls) County Championship**

*Winners:* 1993 (S.N. na Sraithe), 2015 (S.N. TMÉ) *Runners-up:* 2014 (S.N. TMÉ)

## ***Roll of Honours – Colleges Football (Coláiste Muire)***

### **All-Ireland Senior “A” Colleges Football Championship (Girls)**

*Runners-up:* 1997, 2001



**Connacht Senior "A" Colleges Football Championship (Girls)**

Winners: 1997, 2001

Runners-up: 1998, 1999

**Connacht Senior "D" Colleges Football Championship (Boys)**

Winners: 1998

Runners-up: 1996

**Connacht Junior "D" Colleges Football Championship (Boys)**

Winners: 1997, 1998

**Connacht Juvenile "D" Colleges Football Championship (Boys)**

Runners-up: 2006

***Roll of Honours – Scór and Cultural Activities***

**All-Ireland Scór na nÓg (Rinnce Seit)**

Runners-up: 1979

**Connacht Scór Sinsir (Rinnce Seit)**

Winners: 1983, 1985

**Connacht Scór Sinsir (Aithriseoireacht)**

Winners: 1973 (Bríd Ní Éanacháin), 1982 (Mícheál de Paor)

**Connacht Scór na nÓg (Rinnce Seit)**

Winners: 1979, 1980, 1983, 1986

**All-Ireland Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta (Cabaret)**

Buaiteoir: 1972

**All-Ireland Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta (Rinnce Seit - Sinsir)**

Buaiteoir:: 1980

**All-Ireland Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta (Cailín Gaelach)**

Buaiteoir: 1998 (Sinéad Ní Mháille)



***Roll of Honours – Athletics under GAA rules***

**Connacht GAA Athletics Championships – High Jump**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 1909 – J. O'Leary, Tourmakeady

## Club Officers

Bliain	Uachtarán	Cathaoirleach	Rúnaí	Cisteoir
1965	Fr. Michael Cribbin	Owen Denny	Seán Ó Cróinín	Seán Molloy
1966	Fr. Michael Cribbin	Fr. Desmond Grogan	Seán Ó Cróinín	Pádraig Feeney
1967	Fr. Michael Cribbin	Fr. Desmond Grogan	Michael Power	Pádraig Feeney / Matt Burke
1968	Fr. Michael Cribbin	Fr. Desmond Grogan	Michael O'Donovan	Matt Burke
1969	Fr. Desmond Grogan	Seán Ó Sé	Owen Denny	Pádraig Folan
1970	Fr. Desmond Grogan	Seán Ó Sé	Owen Denny	Pádraig Folan / Owen Cronin / Phil Staunton
1971	Fr. Patrick Kilgannon	Seán Ó Sé	Seán Ó Cróinín	Phil Staunton
1972	Fr. Patrick Kilgannon	Michael Burke	Seán Ó Cróinín	Charlie O'Donnell
1973	Fr. Patrick Kilgannon	Michael Burke	Seán Ó Cróinín / Michael Hennelly	Charlie O'Donnell
1974	Fr. Patrick Kilgannon	Seán Ó Sé	Michael Hennelly	Vincent Hennelly
1975	Fr. Patrick Kilgannon	Seán Ó Conghaile	Pádraig Duffy	Vincent Hennelly
1976	Fr. Desmond Grogan	Seán Ó Conghaile	Michael John Casey	Vincent Hennelly
1977	Fr. Desmond Grogan	Seán Ó Conghaile	Michael John Casey	Vincent Hennelly
1978	Tom Molloy	Michael Burke	Kevin O'Toole	Vincent Hennelly
1979	Tom Molloy / Fr. Desmond Grogan	Fr. Noel Forde	Kevin O'Toole / Michael Hennelly	Vincent Hennelly
1980	Fr. Desmond Grogan	Fr. Noel Forde	Kevin O'Toole	Vincent Hennelly
1981	John Callan	Fr. Noel Forde	Kevin O'Toole	Kathleen Molloy
1982	Seán Molloy	Fr. Noel Forde	Adrian Gavin	Michael Morrin
1983	Seán Molloy	Fr. Noel Forde	Kevin O'Toole	Vincent Hennelly
1984	Seán Molloy	Fr. Noel Forde	Kevin O'Toole	Vincent Hennelly
1985	Seán Molloy	Fr. Noel Forde	Áine Ní Rónáin	Vincent Hennelly
1986	Seán Molloy ?	Fr. Noel Forde	Kevin O'Toole	Vincent Hennelly
1987	John Callan	Kevin O'Toole	Seán de Búrca	Vincent Hennelly



Bliain	Uachtarán	Cathaoirleach	Rúnaí	Cisteoir
1988	John Callan	Kevin O'Toole	Michael John Casey	Vincent Hennelly
1989	John Callan	Kevin O'Toole	Tommy Heneghan	Vincent Hennelly
1990	John Callan	Pádraig de Búrca	Seán de Búrca	Seán Seoighe
1991	John Callan	Pádraig de Búrca	Liam de Búrca	Seán Seoighe
1992	John Callan	Pádraig de Búrca	Michael John Casey	Seán Seoighe
1993	John Callan	Tommy Heneghan	Pádraig de Búrca	Seán Seoighe
1994	John Callan	Tommy Heneghan	Michael John Casey	Sheila O'Toole
1995	John Callan	Tommy Heneghan	Michael John Casey	Frank Lally
1996	John Callan	Tommy Heneghan	Michael John Casey	Frank Lally
1997	John Callan	Tommy Heneghan	Brian Gibbons	Martin O'Neill
1998	John Callan	Tommy Heneghan	Brian Gibbons	Martin O'Neill
1999	John Callan	Tommy Heneghan	Brian Gibbons	Martin O'Neill
2000	John Callan	Kevin O'Toole	Brian Gibbons	Martin O'Neill
2001	John Callan	Kevin O'Toole	Brian Gibbons	Martin O'Neill
2002	John Callan	Colm Ó Conghaile	Jim Durkin	Martin O'Neill
2003	John Callan	Pádraig Ó hÉanacháin	Caitlín Ní Éanacháin	Joe Heneghan
2004	John Callan	Pádraig Ó hÉanacháin	Caitlín Ní Éanacháin	Joe Heneghan ?
2005	(vacant)	Pádraig Ó hÉanacháin	Helen Garry	Fiona Heneghan
2006	(vacant)	Pádraig Ó hÉanacháin	Helen Garry	Michael Jennings
2007	(vacant)	Pádraig Ó hÉanacháin	Helen Garry	Noreen Hughes
2008	(vacant)	Jim Durkin	Connie O'Toole	Mary Prendergast
2009	(vacant)	Jim Durkin	Connie O'Toole	Mary Prendergast
2010	(vacant)	Jim Durkin	Michael Lang	Mary Prendergast
2011	Jim Callaghan	Jim Durkin	Michael Lang	Mary Prendergast
2012	Jim Callaghan	Jim Durkin	Michael Lang	Mary Prendergast
2013	Jim Callaghan	Michael Lang	Maura Staunton	Mary Prendergast
2014	Jim Callaghan	Michael Lang	Damien Heneghan & Niall Lydon	David Lally
2015	Jim Callaghan	Pattie Egan	Michael Lang	David Lally

## Club Captains 1965 - 2015

Year	Captain	Year	Captain
1965/'66	Seán Ó Sé	1991	Michael John Walsh
1967	Seán Fitzgerald	1992	Michael Morrin ?
1968	Owen Denny	1993	Brian Gibbons ?
1969	J.J. Newell	1994	Pat Walsh
1970	Michael Power ?	1995	John Lydon
1971	Pat Naughton	1996	John Lydon
1972	Peadar Flynn	1997	John Lydon ?
1973	Seán Ó Sé ?	1998	Adrian Farragher
1974		1999	John Heneghan
1975	Tommy Heneghan	2000	Colm Ó Conghaile
1976	Seán Ó Sé	2001	Ciarán Walsh
1977	Vincent Hennelly	2002	John Lydon
1978	Vincent Hennelly	2003	Michael John Walsh
1979	Willie Feeley	2004	Brendan Prendergast
1980	Kevin Dermody	2005	Pat Heneghan
1981	Pat Naughton	2006	Brian Naughton
1982	Frank Lally	2007	Brendan Prendergast
1983	Mattie Heneghan	2008	Brian Naughton
1984	Seán Seoighe	2009	Brian Naughton
1985	Tommy Heneghan	2010	Kevin Dolan
1986		2011	Kevin Dolan
1987	Michael Morrin	2012	Brendan Prendergast
1988	Seán Seoighe ?	2013	Brendan Prendergast
1989		2014	David Prendergast
1990		2015	David Prendergast



## ***Mayo Championship Finals (Mens Football)***

### **Mayo Intermediate Football Championship**

1981 (Aug 30)	Davitts	0-8	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	1-4	at Flanagan Park, Ballinrobe
1982 (Sep 26)	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	1-8	Burrischoole	1-6	at MacHale Park, Castlebar
2006 (Nov 12)	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	1-11	Parke	1-10	at MacHale Park, Castlebar
2009 (Oct 25)	Westport	2-7	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	0-12	at MacHale Park, Castlebar
2010 (Oct 17)	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	0-11	Burrischoole	0-8	at MacHale Park, Castlebar

### **Mayo Junior Football Championship**

1979 (Nov 4)	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	1-5	Ardnaree	1-2	at MacHale Park, Castlebar
1998 (Nov 8)	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	1-9	Crossmolina	0-11	at Flanagan Park, Ballinrobe

### **Mayo U-21 "B" Football Championship**

1999 (May 3)	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	1-10	Ballaghaderreen	0-11	at Flanagan Park, Ballinrobe
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## ***Mayo Championship Finals (Ladies Football)***

### **Mayo Senior Football Championship**

1982	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	beat	Bonniconlon		at MacHale Park, Castlebar
1983 (Aug 21)	Cong	3-5	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh		at MacHale Park, Castlebar
1984 (Sep 9)	Cong	beat	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh		at MacHale Park, Castlebar

### **Mayo Intermediate Football Championship**

2001 (Aug 19)	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	2-9	Moy Davitts	0-7	at Garrymore
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### **Mayo Junior Football Championship**

1993 (Sep 26)	Ballinrobe	beat	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh		at Flanagan Park, Ballinrobe
1994 (Sep 11)	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	1-15	Carnacon	2-3	at Flanagan Park, Ballinrobe
2010 (Sep 18)	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	2-14	Davitts	2-12	at Ballyheane (AET)
2013 (Sep 14)	Louisburgh	4-5	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh	0-7	at Mayo Abbey

## ***Connacht Championship Finals (Mens Football)***

### **Connacht Intermediate Football Championship**

2006 (Dec 3)	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	0-7	Carrigallen	1-3	at Ballinamore
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### **Connacht Junior Football Championship**

1999 (Mar 21)	<b>Tuar Mhic Éadaigh</b>	0-11	Claregalway	1-1	at Hyde Park, Roscommon
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**Connacht Championship Finals (Ladies Football)**

**Connacht Senior Football Championship (Ladies)**

1983 (Mar 27) Galway Gaels 6-9 Tuar Mhic Éadaigh 3-1 at Headford

**Connacht Intermediate Football Championship (Ladies)**

2001 (Oct 28) Ballygar 4-12 Tuar Mhic Éadaigh 0-5 at Flanagan Park, Ballinrobe

**Connacht Junior Football Championship (Ladies)**

2010 (Oct 16) Caltra Cuans 4-13 Tuar Mhic Éadaigh 1-8 at Páirc Naomh Muire

**Championship Grade 1966-2015 (Mens Football)**

1966	Junior	1991	Junior
1967	Junior	1992	Junior
1968	Junior	1993	Junior
1969	Junior	1994	Junior
1970	Junior	1995	Junior
1971	Junior	1996	Junior
1972	Junior	1997	Junior
1973	Junior	1998	Junior
1974	Junior	1999	Intermediate
1975	Junior	2000	Intermediate
1976	Junior	2001	Intermediate
1977	Junior	2002	Intermediate
1978	Junior	2003	Intermediate
1979	Junior	2004	Intermediate
1980	Intermediate	2005	Intermediate
1981	Intermediate	2006	Intermediate
1982	Intermediate	2007	Senior
1983	Senior	2008	Intermediate
1984	Senior	2009	Intermediate
1985	Senior	2010	Intermediate
1986	Senior	2011	Senior
1987	Junior	2012	Senior
1988	Junior	2013	Senior
1989	Junior	2014	Intermediate
1990	Junior	2015	Intermediate



## Club members who were selected for Mayo



This list includes all persons living in Ballyovey parish who were selected for the Mayo inter-county panel while registered as members of Tourmakeady GAA / LGFA Club, Partry GAA Club (1907-'20s) or Partry Minor Football Club (1960s). In the years when clubs in the parish lapsed, some players were selected for Mayo while registered elsewhere. Those players are included in the following lists, as are those who played hurling for Mayo while registered with a dedicated hurling club. Please notify the club secretary of any errors or omissions.

### Senior Football (Mens)

1926-'27	Michael Joseph Horan (Portroyal), Forward
1926-'29	Garda John McGahern (Partry), Forward (also played with Cavan)
1949-'53	Mick O'Malley (Churchfield), Goalkeeper
1972-'73	Kevin Melia, Half-forward (also played with Wicklow)
1980	Kevin Dermody, Half-forward
1982-'83	Adrian Gavin, Half-forward
2003	Brendan Prendergast, Half-back
2011	Kevin Dolan, Corner-forward

### Junior / Senior Football (Ladies)

1980s – 1990s	Bernie Dolan	Patricia Dolan	Mary Ann Dolan
	Carmel Gibbons	Mary Gibbons	Judy Heneghan
	Cathy Lally	Kathleen Lally	Marie Lally
	Noreen Lally	Cáit Morahan	Bernie O'Neill
	Eileen O'Neill	Kathleen O'Neill	Mary T. O'Neill
	Noreen O'Neill	Ann Ronan	Anne Rowland
	Mary Walsh		
1990s – 2000s	Aoibhinn Burke	Catherine Burke	Aislinn Donoghue
	Shellie Gibbons	Kathleen Ann Heneghan	Denise Horan
	Aoife Ní Mháille	Martha Ní Mháille	Nuala O'Shea
	Ciara O'Toole	Caroline Prendergast	Sandra Prendergast

### Senior Hurling

1980s	John Power, as member of Ballinrobe HC
1982	Seán Seoighe (Shanafaraghaun), as member of Ballinrobe HC

Club Records

Junior Football

1920s	Michael Joseph Horan (Portroyal)	1920s	John McGahern (Partry)
1950s	Mick O'Malley (Churchfield) *	1990s	Michael O'Malley (Srah)
1990s	Brian Gibbons	1999	Ciarán Walsh
1999	John Heneghan	2002-'06	Brendan Prendergast
2004	Tom Naughton	2010	David Prendergast
2011	Tom Staunton (Shanvallyard)		

\* also played with Clare Juniors

O-40 Masters Football

1990s	Tommy Heneghan	2000s	Michael John Walsh
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U-21 Football

1964	Thomas Staunton (Tooreen)	1973-'74	Tommy Heneghan (Tawnagh)
1979	Adrian Gavin	1981	Mattie Heneghan
1982	Seán Seoighe (Shanafaraghaun)	1984-'86	Mícheál Molloy
1996	Adrian Farragher	2001	Tom Naughton
2001	Brendan Prendergast	2001-'02	Michael James Meeneghan
2006	David Prendergast	2006	Trevor Lydon (Finny)
2011	Tom Staunton (Shanvallyard)	2012	Michael Kelly



Colm Ó Conghaile  
Mayo Minors 1994  
Connacht Finalists.



Tom Naughton  
Mayo U-16s 1996  
Connacht Champions.



Tom Staunton was Tourmakeady's  
Young Player of the Year in 2010 and  
his form caught the eye of the county  
selectors at U-21 and Junior level.

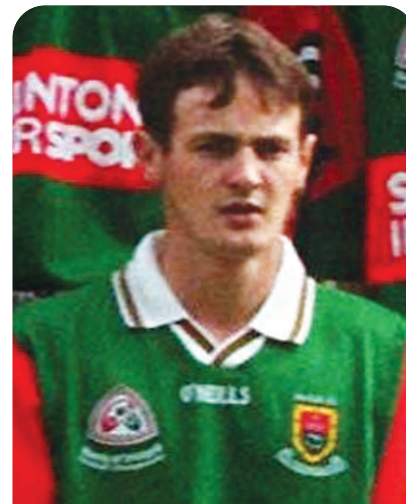




Con Horan (Portroyal)  
Mayo Minors 1956.



Tom Staunton (Tooreen)  
Mayo Minors 1962  
All-Ireland Finalists.



Michael James Meenaghan,  
Mayo Minors  
All-Ireland Final 1999.

### Minor Football

1946 ?	Bartley Horan (Tooreen)	1956	Con Horan (Partry)
1959	Mickey Heneghan (Srah)	1962	Thomas Staunton (Tooreen)
1962	J.J.Newell	1982-'83	Mícheál Molloy
1983	Michael O'Malley (Srah)	1984	Joe Dolan
1984	Michael Horan	1988	Frank Carr
1989	Jonathan O'Neill	1993	Adrian Farragher
1994	Colm Ó Conghaile	1997-'98	Brendan Prendergast
1998	Tom Naughton	1998	Damien Heneghan
1998-'99	Michael James Meenaghan	1999	Brian Naughton
2002-'03	David Prendergast	2014	Maidhc de Búrca

### Minor Hurling *(as members of dedicated hurling clubs)*

1970s	Adrian Gavin (Ballinrobe HC)	1980s	Martin Harrington (Ballinrobe HC)
1980s	John Mulrooney (Ballinrobe HC)	1980s	John Harrington (Ballinrobe HC)
2013-'14	Jack Forde (Moytura / Castlebar HC)	2014-'15	Sam Forde (Moytura / Castlebar HC)

### Vocational Schools

1982-'83	Joe Dolan	1982-'83	Michael Horan
1982-'83	Michael O'Malley	1982	Seán Lydon
1987-'88	Frank Carr	1987	Declan O'Shea
1991	Ger Lydon	1991	Noel Molloy



Cáit Morahan



Nuala O'Shea



Martha Ní Mháille

**U-14 / U-16 / Minor Football (Ladies)**

1980s – 1990s	Carmel Gibbons	Bernie Lydon	Cáit Morahan
	Bernie O'Neill	Eileen O'Neill	Kathleen O'Neill
	Mary T. O'Neill	Noreen O'Neill	
	Sandra Prendergast	Mairéad Walsh	
1990s – 2000s	Aoibhinn Burke	Aislinn Donoghue	Shellie Gibbons
	Kathleen Ann Heneghan	Aoife Ní Mháille	Martha Ní Mháille
	Lorraine O'Neill	Ciara O'Toole	Nuala O'Shea
2000s – 2010s	Emer Barker	Catherine Burke	Martha Heneghan
	Ruth Heneghan	Siobhán Heneghan	Úna Heneghan
	Sinéad Hughes	Fiona Lally	

**U-16 Football (Boys)**

1986	Declan O'Shea	1991	Adrian Farragher
1996	Brendan Prendergast	1996	Tom Naughton
1997	Michael James Meenaghan	1998	Brian Naughton
2001	David Prendergast	2012	Maidhc de Búrca
2013	Darragh McConnell	2014	Frank Carr

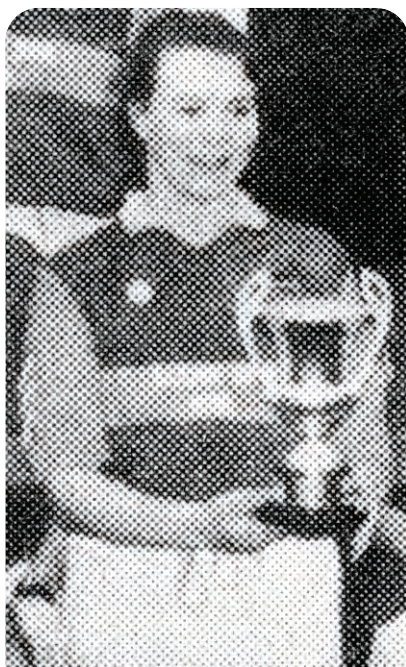
**U-16 Hurling**

2011-'12 Jack Forde	2012-'13 Sam Forde
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## Club members who captained Mayo

1983	Mícheál Molloy	Minor
1983	Eddie Gibbons	U-21: All-Ireland Champions ( <i>then with The Neale club</i> )
1989	Cáit Morahan	Minor: Connacht Champions
1993	Bernie O'Neill	Senior Ladies: All-Ireland Senior "B" Champions
1994	Laura Duffy Prendergast	U-14 Ladies: All-Ireland Champions ( <i>then with Carnacon club</i> )
1997	Martha Ní Mháille	U-16 Ladies: Connacht Champions
1998	Brian Naughton	U-16: Connacht Champions
1998	Kathleen Ann Heneghan	Minor Ladies
1998	Brendan Prendergast	Minor
2001	Denise Horan	Senior Ladies
2003	David Prendergast	Minor
2004	Nuala O'Shea	Senior Ladies: NFL Division 1 Champions



Bernie O'Neill captained Mayo Ladies Senior "B" All-Ireland Champions 1993.



Mayo captain Nuala O'Shea lifts the trophy following her team's victory over Cork in the Ladies National Football League Final at Pearse Stadium, Galway, April 25, 2004. © Photo: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE.



Mícheál Molloy, pictured here in the colours of St. Jarlath's College, captained Mayo Minors in 1983.

## ***Members who won national honours with Mayo***



On the famous steps of the Hogan Stand, October 3, 1999. Martha Ní Mháille (at very left in tracksuit top) and Nuala O'Shea (second from right) make history on an unforgettable day for Mayo football supporters.  
© Photo: SPORTSFILE

### **All-Ireland Senior Football Championship (Ladies) "Brendan Martin Cup"**

#### *Winners*

Aoibhinn Burke: 2000  
Shellie Gibbons: 1999, 2000  
Kathleen Ann Heneghan: 2000  
Denise Horan: 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003  
Martha Ní Mháille: 1999, 2000, 2002  
Nuala O'Shea: 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003

#### *Runners-Up*

Catherine Burke: 2007  
Shellie Gibbons: 2001  
Denise Horan: 2001 (capt.)  
Nuala O'Shea: 2001, 2007



All-Ireland Senior Ladies Football Championship 1999  
(courtesy of Martha Ní Mháille)



## All-Ireland Senior Football Championship (Mens)

### Winners

Mick O'Malley was reserve goalkeeper on the Mayo senior football squad from 1949 to 1953, during which years the county won two All-Ireland Senior Championships (1950 and '51). Only 18 players were given All-Ireland medals in those days so Mick O'Malley was never awarded a medal. In 2006, three surviving members of that Mayo panel (Mick Loftus, Willie Casey, Paddy Jordan) were eventually presented with their All-Ireland medals, 55 years after the victory of '51.

## National Football League – Senior Division 1 (Ladies)

### Winners

Aoibhinn Burke: 2000  
 Shellie Gibbons: 2000  
 Kathleen Ann Heneghan: 2000  
 Denise Horan: 2000  
 Martha Ní Mháille: 2000  
 Nuala O'Shea: 2000, 2004 (capt.), 2007  
 Ciara O'Toole: 2000

### Runners-Up

Catherine Burke: 2009  
 Aislinn Donoghue: 1996  
 Shellie Gibbons: 2002  
 Kathleen Ann Heneghan: 1996  
 Martha Ní Mháille: 1996, 2002  
 Bernie O'Neill: 1994, 1995  
 Eileen O'Neill: 1994, 1995  
 Noreen O'Neill: 1996  
 Caroline Prendergast: 1995  
 Sandra Prendergast: 1995, 1996



All-Ireland Senior Ladies Football Final 2002  
 Mayo v Waterford

## National Football League – Junior Division 2 (Ladies)

### Runners-Up

Cáit Morahan: 1991      Bernie O'Neill: 1991  
 Mary T. O'Neill: 1991

## Ladies Gaelic Football Association All-Stars Awards

Denise Horan: 1999, 2000, 2001 (*all as goalkeeper*)  
 Bernie O'Neill: 1993, 1995 (*both as full-back*)  
 Nuala O'Shea: 2003 (*right corner-back*)



All-Stars Bernie O'Neill and  
 Denise Horan

## All-Ireland Junior Football Championship

### Runners-Up

Michael Joseph Horan, Partry: 1925  
John McGahern, Partry: 1925  
Mick O'Malley, Churchfield: 1951 (home final)

## All-Ireland O-40 Masters Football Championship

### Winners

Tommy Heneghan: 1994, 1995  
Michael John Walsh: 2009

## All-Ireland Senior "B" Football Championship (Ladies)

### Winners

Bernie O'Neill: 1993 (capt.) Eileen O'Neill: 1993

## All-Ireland Junior Football Championship (Ladies)

### Winners

Cáit Morahan: 1987  
Bernie O'Neill: 1987  
Eileen O'Neill: 1987

## All-Ireland U-21 Football Championship

### Winners

Tommy Heneghan: 1974  
Eddie Gibbons: 1983 (capt.) – *then The Neale GAA*  
Trevor Lydon (Finny): 2006 – *member of Clonbur GAA*  
David Prendergast: 2006

### Runners-Up

Tommy Heneghan: 1973  
Michael James Meeneghan: 2001  
Mícheál Molloy: 1984  
Tom Naughton: 2001  
Brendan Prendergast: 2001

## All-Ireland Minor Football Championship

### Winners

Martin Maloney (now Gortmore): 1978 – *then Claremorris GAA*

### Runners-Up

Michael James Meeneghan: 1999  
Brian Naughton: 1999  
Thomas Staunton (Tooreen): 1962



David Prendergast  
All-Ireland U-21  
Champions 2006



All-Ireland U-21  
Championship winners medal  
2006 (courtesy of David  
Prendergast)



## All-Ireland Minor Football Championship (Ladies)

### Winners

Cáit Morahan: 1987  
 Bernie O'Neill: 1987  
 Eileen O'Neill: 1987  
 Mairéad Walsh: 1987

### Runners-Up

Aislinn Donoghue: 1996, 1997, 1998  
 Shellie Gibbons: 1998, 1999  
 Kathleen Ann Heneghan: 1996, 1997, 1998 (capt.)  
 Aoife Ní Mháille: 1996, 1997, 1998  
 Martha Ní Mháille: 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999  
 Lorraine O'Neill: 1996, 1997  
 Nuala O'Shea: 1998, 1999



Kathleen Ann Heneghan

## All-Ireland Minor "C" Hurling Championship

### Winners

Jack Forde (Partry): 2013, 2014  
 Sam Forde (Partry): 2014  
*Both played club hurling with Moytura Gaels and Castlebar HC*



All-Ireland Minor "C"  
 Hurling Champions 2014  
 (courtesy of Sam Forde)

## All-Ireland Vocational Schools Football Championship

### Winners

Mick Burke: 1982 (manager)  
 Joe Dolan: 1982  
 Michael Horan: 1982  
 Seán Lydon: 1982  
 Michael O'Malley: 1982 (injured for final)

## All-Ireland U-16 Football Championship (Ladies)

### Runners-Up

Aislinn Donoghue: 1996  
 Kathleen Ann Heneghan: 1996  
 Cáit Morahan: 1987  
 Aoife Ní Mháille: 1996  
 Martha Ní Mháille: 1996  
 Bernie O'Neill: 1987  
 Lorraine O'Neill: 1996



Aislinn Donoghue

## All-Ireland U-16 Football Championship – Shield (Ladies)

Runner-Up: Emer Barker: 2009

## All-Ireland U-14 “A” Football Championship (Ladies)

Winners

Kathleen Ann Heneghan: 1994

Martha Ní Mháille: 1994

Laura Duffy Prendergast: 1994 (capt.) \*

Aoife Ní Mháille: 1994

Lorraine O'Neill: 1994

Runners-Up

Úna Heneghan: 2000

Catherine Burke: 2004

Siobhán Heneghan: 2000

Sinéad Hughes: 2004

\* then a member of Carnacon LGFA

## All-Ireland U-14 Blitz – Division 1 (Ladies)

Winners

Aislinn Donoghue: 1995

Martha Ní Mháille: 1995

Aoife Ní Mháille: 1995



Mayo Vocational Schools All-Ireland Champions 1982, victors over Kerry on a scoreline of 1-9 to 2-4 in Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney on Sunday April 25, 1982 (played before the NFL final between Kerry and Cork). The team was managed by Tourmakeady native Mick Burke and there were four players from Tourmakeady GAA club on the panel. Back: John Prenty (selector), Paddy Naughton (selector), Kenneth Reilly, Brian Kilkelly, Anthony McGarry, MICHAEL HORAN (Partry), Patrick Corcoran, Pat McGrath, SEÁN LYDON (Killateeun), Ger Boyle, Gabriel Irwin, Kevin Griffin, Kevin Cusack, Patsy Gibbons (Castlebar), MICK BURKE (manager), Richie Bell (trainer). Front: Michael Herr (Crossmolina), Fr. Flynn? (Lacken Cross), Maurice Prendergast, Pádraic O'Hara, Gerry Mahedy, Dominic Herbert, Seán Gannon, Kevin Maloney, John Walsh (captain), John Tierney, Michael Boylan, Aiden McHale, JOE DOLAN (Derryveeney), Tony O'Connor (selector). Missing from photo: MICHAEL O'MALLEY (Srah, injured for final).



## ***Club members who were selected for Connacht***

### **Inter-Provincial Senior Football Championship "Railway Cup"**

1926/'27 John McGahern (Partry)

### **Inter-Provincial Ladies Football Tournament "Mick Talbot Cup"**

1991 Bernie O'Neill  
 1993 Bernie O'Neill, Eileen O'Neill  
 1994 Bernie O'Neill, Eileen O'Neill  
 1995 Bernie O'Neill, Sandra Prendergast  
 1999 Nuala O'Shea, Denise Horan, Shellie Gibbons  
 2000 Nuala O'Shea, Denise Horan (Tournament winners)  
 2002 Denise Horan  
 2003 Nuala O'Shea, Denise Horan  
 2005 Nuala O'Shea  
 2006 Nuala O'Shea

### **International "Compromise" Rules**

1998 Michael James Meenaghan, Connacht U-17s versus Australia  
 1998 Brian Naughton, Connacht U-16s versus Leinster  
 1999 Brian Naughton, Connacht U-17s tour to Australia

### **Connacht Colleges**

1946 Mick O'Malley ?  
 1998 Brian Naughton, international tour to USA (did not travel)

## ***Club members who played with national selections***

1950 Mick O'Malley  
 1951 Mick O'Malley  
 1993 Bernie O'Neill  
 1995 Bernie O'Neill  
 1999 Brian Naughton (capt.)  
 2003 Brian Naughton  
 2003 Nuala O'Shea

**Combined Universities** versus Rest of Ireland  
**Combined Universities** versus Rest of Ireland  
**Ladies All-Stars** versus Rest of Ireland  
**Ladies All-Stars** versus Rest of Ireland  
**Ireland U-17s** on international tour to Australia  
**TG4 "Underdogs"** national selection versus Dublin  
**Ladies All-Stars** versus Mayo, plus tour to New York



Michael James Meenaghan  
 Connacht U-17s v  
 Australia 1998



Brian Naughton, Ireland  
 U-17s captain 1999

## ***Club members who served as county team managers or officials***

### **Team Management**

Mick Burke	Minor All-Ireland Football Champions 1985 Vocational Schools All-Ireland Football Champions 1982
Tommy Heneghan	U-21 Selector (1990s)
Joe Mulrooney	Minor / U-21 Selector (1960s)

### **Administration (GAA)**

Joe Mulrooney	Mayo Minor Board Secretary (1960s)
Kevin O'Toole	Mayo GAA County PRO (1988-'90s and 2000s) Mayo GAA County Secretary (2012)
Fr. Noel Forde	Chairperson of West Mayo Board (1970s-'80s)
Brian Gibbons	Treasurer of West Mayo Board (2000s)
Michael John Casey	West Mayo Board (1980s)

### **Administration (LGFA)**

John Gibbons	Mayo LGFA County PRO (1990s)
Bernie O'Neill	Mayo LGFA Assistant Secretary (1990s) Mayo LGFA Oifigeach na Gaeilge (1995)
Cáit Morahan	Mayo LGFA Officer (1990s)
Noreen Lally	Mayo LGFA Officer (1980s)

### **Administration (Handball)**

Fr. Thomas Canning	President of Mayo Handball Association (1960s)
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Kevin O'Toole, pictured  
before All-Ireland Final  
1989

## ***Natives of Ballyovey parish who were involved with other counties***

### **Players**

Joe Dolan	London	1980s
Paul Gavin	London	1980s
Mattie Heneghan	London	1985-'95 (captain 1989)
Michael Hennelly (Tooreen)	Donegal	1950s
Colm Ó Conghaile	Kilkenny	1990s
Mick O'Malley (Churchfield)	Clare	1950s

### **Team Management / Administration**

Bartley Horan (Tooreen)	Laois U-21 Football Manager (Leinster Champions 1982)
Con Horan (Portroyal)	Limerick GAA County Board 1980s/'90s



Colm Ó Conghaile  
Kilkenny v Kerry  
NFL Feb 1999



## ***Members who played at inter-county level before joining the club***

This list includes persons who played inter-county football before they became members of Tourmakeady or Partry GAA club:

### **Current members (2015)**

Laura Duffy      Mayo: All-Ireland U-14 Champions 1994, captain  
 Eddie Gibbons      Mayo: All-Ireland U-21 Champions 1983, captain  
 John Horan      Mayo  
 Seán Kearns      Armagh (Minor and U-21)  
 Michael Lang      Leitrim (U-14/U-16), Sligo (Minor), and Galway (Junior)  
 Martin Maloney      Mayo: All-Ireland Minor Football Champions 1978

### **Former members**

John McGahern      Cavan (Gowna)

*Won two Ulster Senior Football Championships with Cavan in 1918 and 1920 before entering An Garda Síochána in 1923. He was stationed in Partry from 1924 until 1926, during which time he helped Partry win the Ballinrobe District League. He also played with Mayo (Juniors and Seniors) and Connacht. Married Nora Horan (Srah), whose father Thomas was killed by Crown forces in reprisal for Kilfaul ambush 1921.*

Alec Coakley      Kerry

*Former Kerry minor and Munster Colleges footballer who worked as an Agricultural Instructor in Partry during the 1950s. He played with Tourmakeady in the South Mayo Championship (1950) and also with Partry (7-a-side teams) and Ballintubber.*

Willie Feeley      Roscommon

*Captain of the Tourmakeady team that won the West Mayo Junior final in 1979. He represented Roscommon at inter-county level in football and hurling and was the youngest member of Roscommon's All-Ireland U-21 winning panel of 1966.*

Kevin Melia      Wicklow (Ashford)

*Midfielder on the Tourmakeady team that reached the West Mayo Junior final in 1972. Played for Wicklow in the 1969 Leinster Senior Football Championship and also for Mayo in the 1972/'73 National Football League. Transferred back to Wicklow in 1973 and went on to pursue a very successful business career in Ireland and USA where his roles included Corporate Vice President of Digital Equipment Corporation and Chief Financial Officer of Sun Microsystems.*

Charlie O'Donnell      Donegal (Ardara)

*Left-half forward on the Tourmakeady team that reached the West Mayo Junior final in 1972 and also served as club treasurer in the early 1970s. He played for Donegal U-21s and Seniors in 1970/'71 and later became the treasurer and chairperson of Donegal County Board.*

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Congratulations Michael on compiling such a wonderful book of cherished memories and history of our great Club. We are sure that it will take pride of place in many homes, both at home and abroad, and that it will be treasured for many years to come. Thank you for all the hard work, commitment and grá for CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh.

**Coiste CLG Thuar Mhic Éadaigh (August 2015).**



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